Shojo Beat Manga

BABY & Me™

Story & Art by

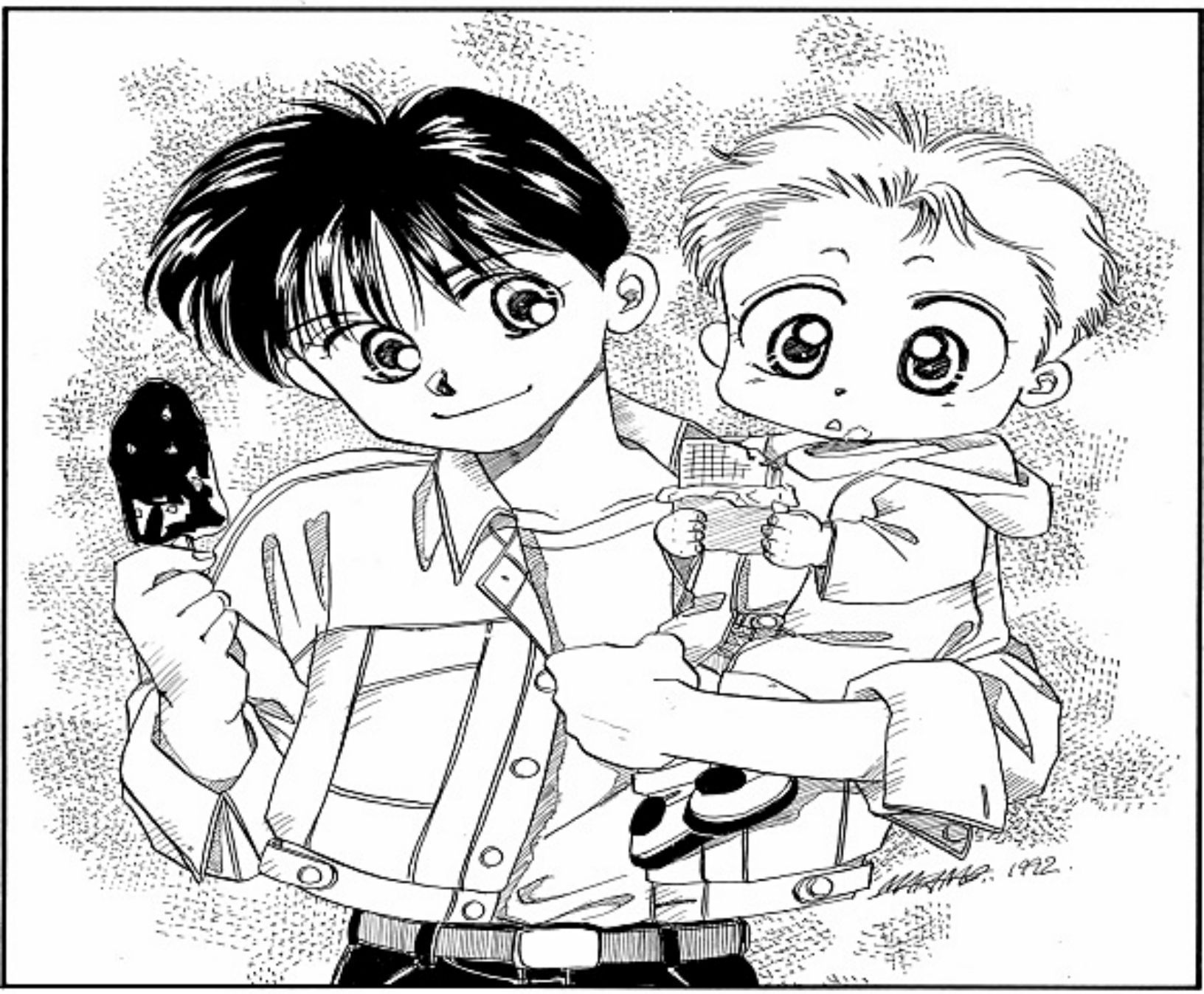
Marimo Ragawa

3

Shojo Beat

BABY & Me™

Vol. 3



Story & Art by **Marimo Ragawa**

BABY & ME™

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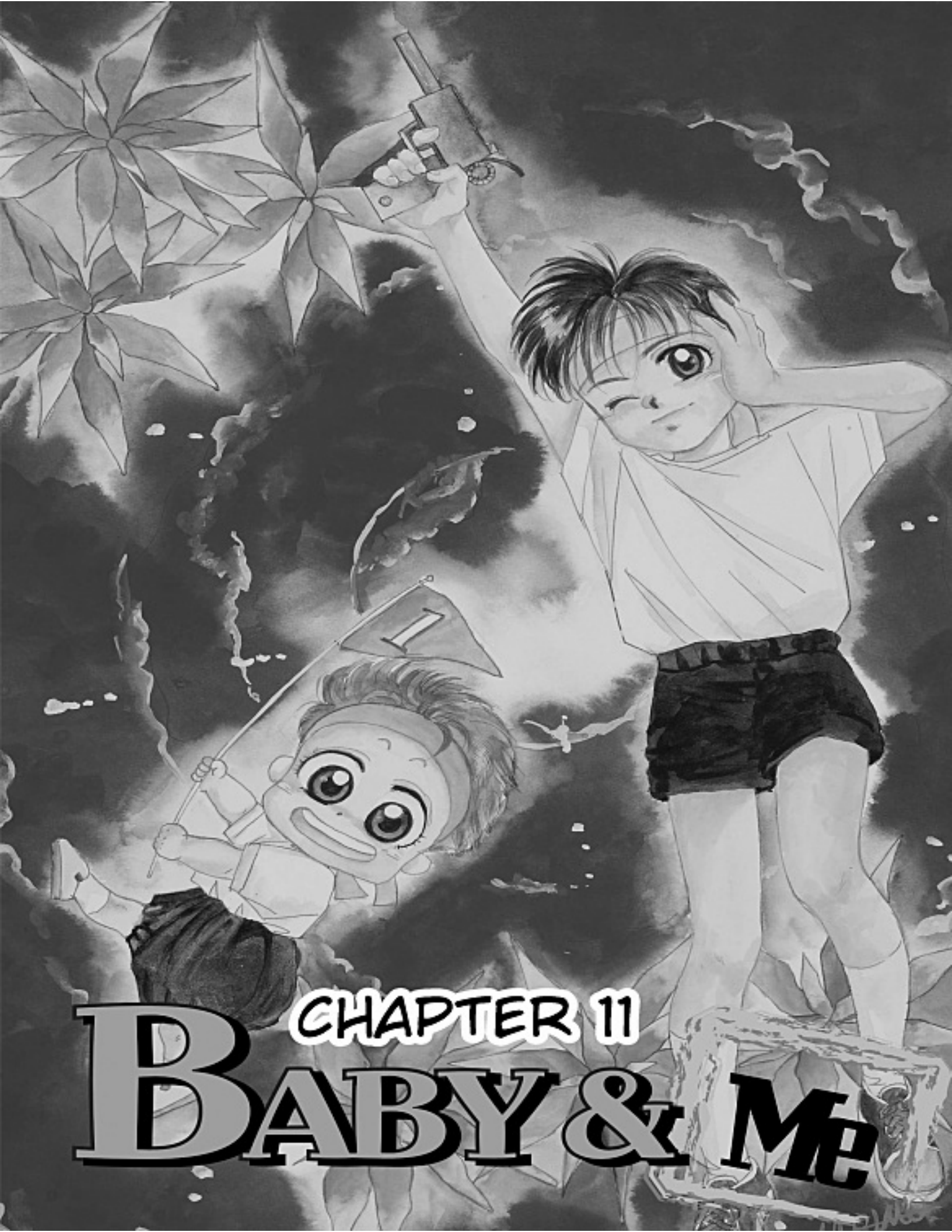


CHAPTER 11

BABY & Me

SPECIAL FOUR-FRAME CHARACTER-INTRODUCTION COMIC STRIP

DANGEROUS MARIMO

IT WAS ALWAYS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED AT THE RAGAWA HOUSE.

THERE'S ONLY ONE, SO DIVIDE IT EQUALLY.

HERE'S A DELICIOUS SHORTCAKE, EVERYONE!

HE GIVES HIS LITTLE BROTHER THE BIGGER PIECE AND EVEN GIVES HIM THE STRAWBERRY.

YAY!

YUM, STWAWBEWY...

YOU CAN HAVE THE BIGGER PIECE.

MINORU

CARING

IN THE ENOKI HOME

EVERYONE'S PIECE IS EXACTLY THE SAME SIZE. EVEN THE STRAWBERRY IS DIVIDED EQUALLY.

SHUT UP!

AKI'S IS BIGGER THAN MINE!

MY PIECE IS TOO SMALL!

TOMOYA

MUNCH MUNCH

MA-BO

ICHIKA

IN THE FUJII HOUSE WITH SIX KIDS.

IT TURNS INTO A SLUGFEST.

WHAK

BASH

WHAM

POW

HIRO

IN THE GOTOH HOME

MEMBERS OF CLASS 6-2 + ONE (KUMADE IS IN 6-1)

AKIHIRO FUJII

MAIN CHARACTER: TAKUYA ENOKI

OH!

HERE'S A SHOT OF TAKUYA AND FUJII. ♡

FATHER

OH, LOOK! LOOK!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT! ♡

SIGH

HOW SWEET!

DREAMY

TETE

MR. & MRS. KIMURA FROM ACROSS THE STREET

KUMADE

TADASHI GOTOH (GON)

HERE'S A SHOT OF GON AND KUMADE.

TAMADATE

GO BE IN A BOYS' MANGA!

DOON

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING IN A MANGA FOR GIRLS?

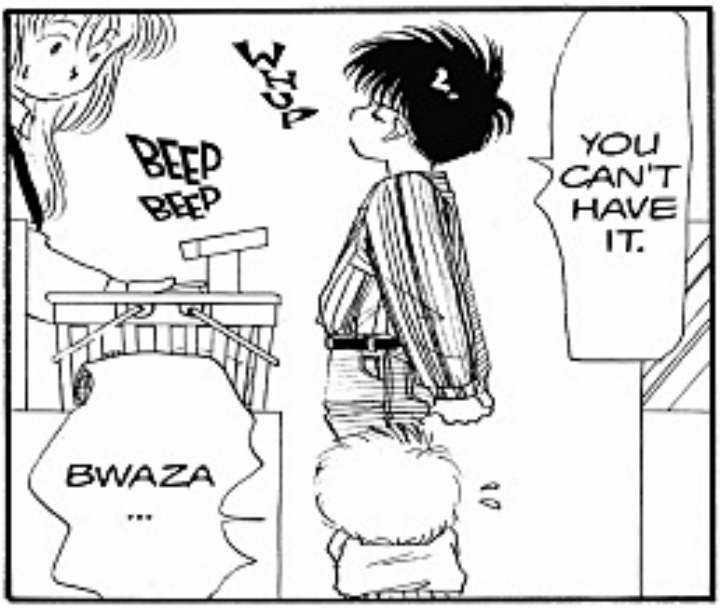
OH NO! MY EYES ARE GONNA FALL OUT!

GON'S PARENTS (LIQUOR STORE OWNERS)

AND NOW, ON TO OUR STORY...

WHA?

MINORU...


WIGL
BEEP BEEP
YOU CAN'T HAVE IT.
BWAZA ...

NO!
PUT IT BACK.
WE CAN'T BUY THAT.
SNUP

SOB SOB
BOO-HOO ...

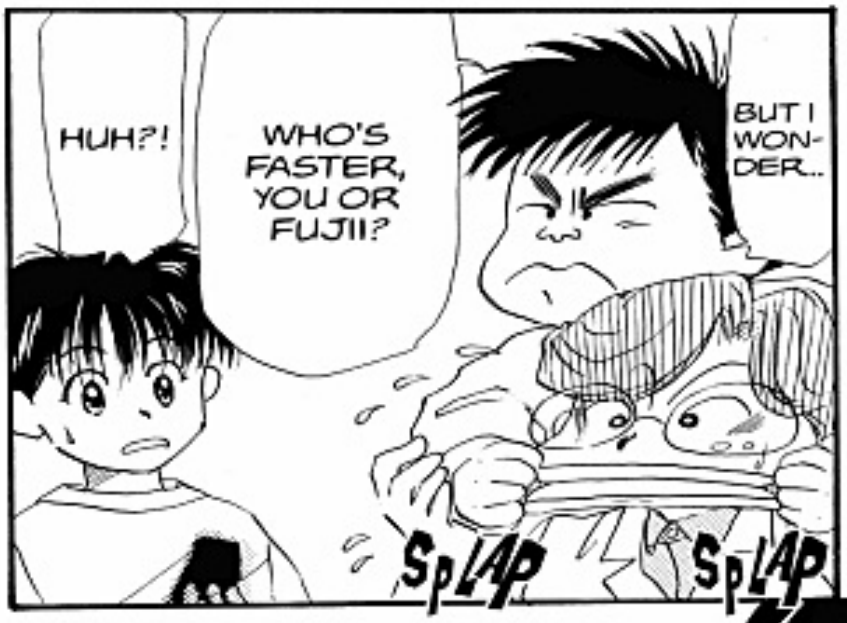
I WAN' IT!
I WIKE IT!

KRAKLE
KRAKLE
AND SO...
KRAKLE
I'M SUCH A PUSH-OVER.
THIS TOO.
PUFF-PUFF SNACKS
SOB SOB
...
SOB SOB
MY BROTHER MINORU (2) IS A SELF-CENTERED BRAT.
YEAH!
THAT'LL MAKE IT EASIER ON DAD.
I NEED TO LEARN HOW TO COOK.
I'M TAKUYA ENOKI (11), AND I'M IN THE SIXTH GRADE.
...OUT-DOOR SPORTS MEET.
NA-GARA COM-MUN-ITY...
9TH
COMMUN
OUTDOO
OH.
NAGARA COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD
9TH COMMUNITY OUTDOOR SPORTS MEET

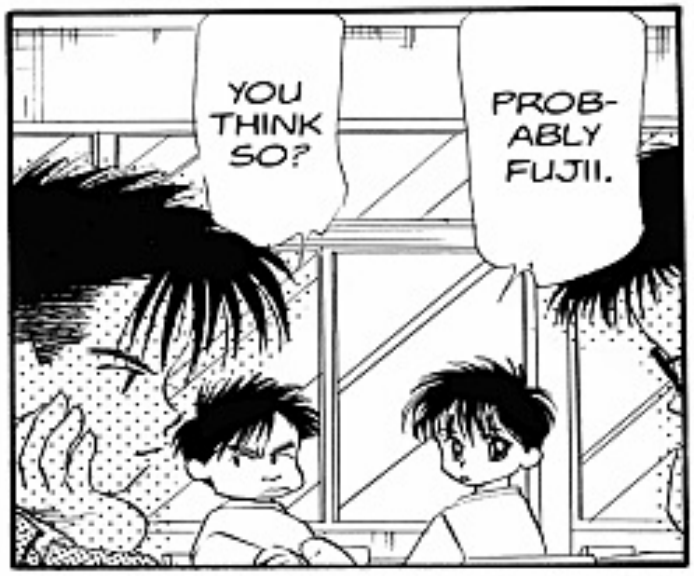
RAH
RAH
I THINK SO.
DO THEY HAVE THIS EVERY YEAR?
...
HUH?
...AND FUJII.
WHO ELSE LIVES IN NAGARA? THERE'S GON...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
REALLY? BUT WE DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE LAST YEAR.
THEY HAVE IT EVERY YEAR DURING GOLDEN WEEK.*
YOU'RE USUALLY OFF ON A TRIP WITH YOUR FAMILY, SO YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT.
*GOLDEN WEEK IS A WEEK OF HOLIDAYS.
GULP
MY MOM DIED LAST YEAR AND I WAS BUSY TAKING CARE OF MINORU.

I, TAMADATE ...
...ALSO LIVE IN NAGARA!
HA HA HA HA

HE WON'T COME.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM THERE.
HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO COME VOLUNTARILY.


BUT I WON-DER...
WHO'S FASTER, YOU OR FUJII?
HUH?!
SPLAP
SPLAP

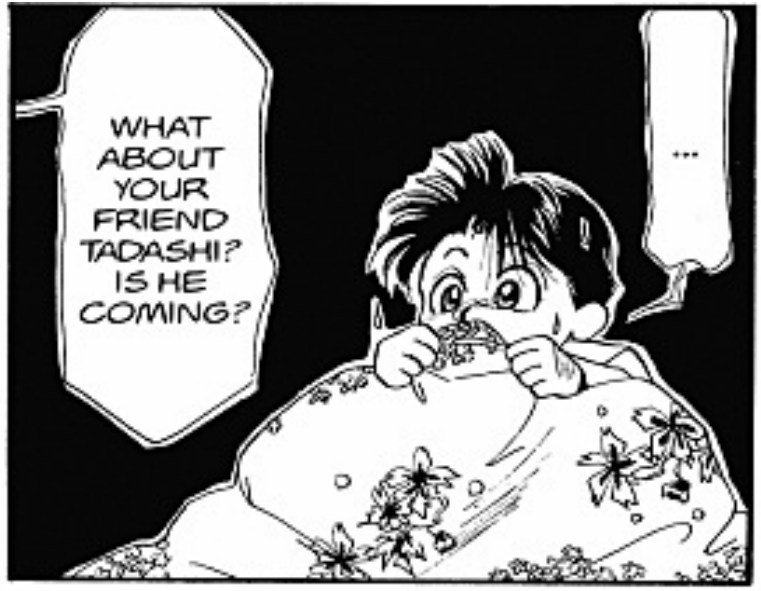
SHUT UP!
GEEZ, SON...
WHAM


PROB-ABLY FUJII.
YOU THINK SO?

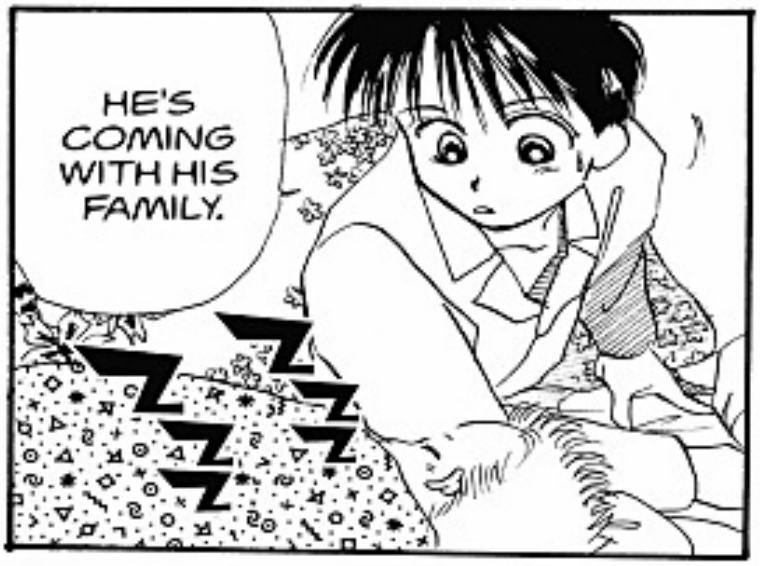
WELL...
...

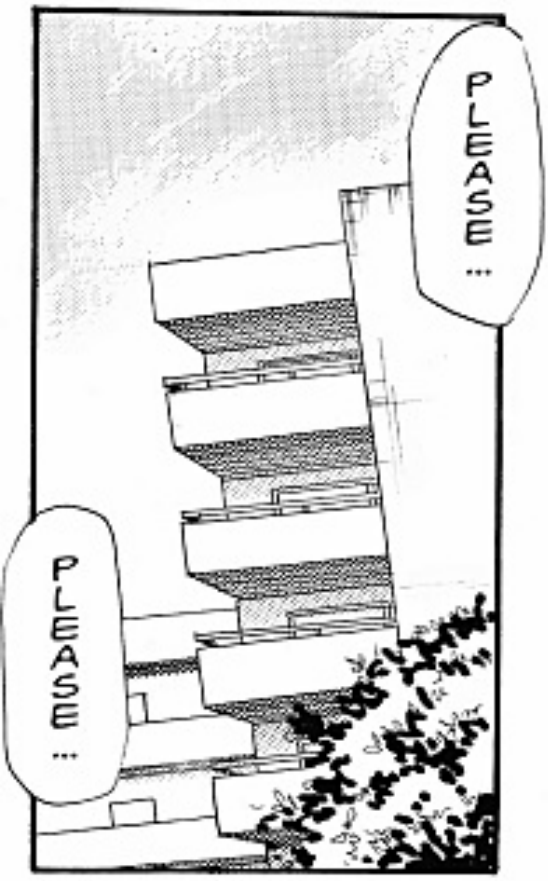
...DEEP DOWN, DON'T YOU WANT TO BEAT HIM?
BUT...
...HE DID BETTER THAN ME IN THE SCHOOL MARATHON.
WELL ...
YOU'RE WEIRD. I'D NEVER WANT...
NO.
...A RIVAL TO BEAT ME.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T CARE.
HE'S ALWAYS SO COOL.
A RIVAL ?
I DON'T THINK FUJII SEES ME AS A RIVAL.
AT THAT MOMENT...
WUZZ
WUZZ

...AND FUJII AND I RAN AGAINST EACH OTHER...
...AS ANCHORS IN A RELAY RACE.
I REMEMBERED WHEN WE WERE IN THE THIRD GRADE...
BANG
BANG
WE HAVE TO FINISH THE HOUSE-WORK FAST.
THE COM-MUNITY SPORTS MEET IS TODAY, ISN'T IT?
HUH? WHAT?
HUH?
TAKUYA!
OF COURSE I AM!
SKRIK
SKRIK
UNH ...
DAD, ARE YOU GOING?
HANG THE BEDDING OUT TO DRY.
SHWOSH
PAPER DOOR SLIDING OPEN


WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIEND TADASHI? IS HE COMING?
...

WUP
I PAID 2,000 YEN FOR EACH OF US...
...AND WE'RE GONNA WIN LOTS OF PRIZES!!


HE'S COMING WITH HIS FAMILY.


PLEASE...
PLEASE...

HE LOOKS SO HAPPY...
WUZA
WUZA

SOB

TOMOYA, YOU TAKE US!
I WANNA GO!
I HAVE TO GO IN TO WORK AND YOUR FATHER IS OUT.
MOMMY...
I WANNA GO TO THE SPORTS MEET.
NO WAY.
N.
O.
SWIP
I'M GOING OUT WITH MY FRIENDS.
OH, I HAVE TO WORK ON MY PROJECT.
TUP TUP TUP
AKEMI! ASAKO!
WUZZZ
WUZZZ
PLEASE TAKE US!
...
THE SPORTS MEET!
KLIK
BIG BRO-THER AKIHIRO!

Author's note 1

It's a little late, but let me introduce myself.

Mug shot of "M"

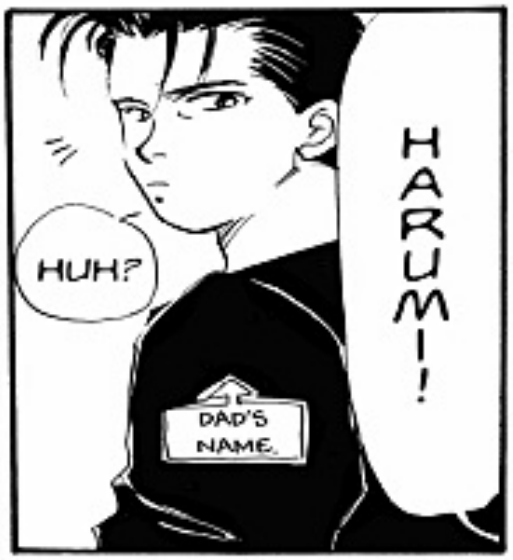
It's a photocopy, so it's kinda dark. I look pretty scary.

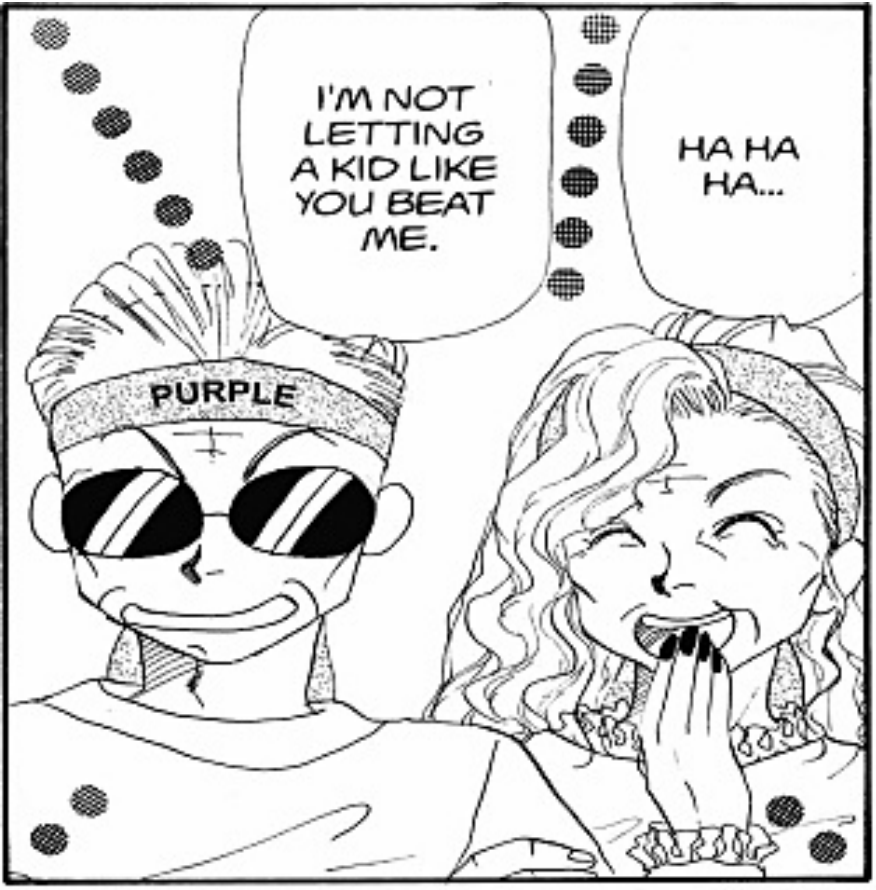
Marimo Ragawa

Real Name: I won't say.
Born: September 21
Sign: Virgo
Blood type: B
One of my readers wrote: "Your blood type must be B!!" That's very astute!

Personality Type: Genial but sometimes short-tempered. Slow-witted but sometimes sharp. Cool but sometimes annoying. Unselfish but sometimes greedy. I'm full of contradictions. People don't always know what to make of me.

Born in Hachinohe City in Aomori Prefecture. Currently residing in Saitama Prefecture. Graduated from Minato Middle School. The entertainer Yoshitake Tanaka graduated from the same school, but my accent isn't as strong as his is. Graduated from Nango High School. I never drew any pictures in front of my friends, so I don't think they know that I draw comics. Graduated from Tokyo Designers College. Currently working fulltime as a comic artist.




I'M NOT LETTING A KID LIKE YOU BEAT ME.
HA HA HA...
PURPLE

HOLD ON. YOU LIVE JUST ACROSS THE STREET. WHY ARE YOU ON THE PURPLE TEAM?
HEY...
THE STREET'S THE DIVIDING LINE.

SCARY.
THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF LIFE LEFT IN 'EM.
WE'RE ONLY IN OUR FIFTIES.
HMPH. THEY MAY BE OLD, BUT...

HIRO'S WEARING PUMPKIN SHORTS, TOO.
OH ...
YEAH.

WE'RE BOTH ON THE BLUE TEAM!!
SWAK

TAKUYA!
HEY!

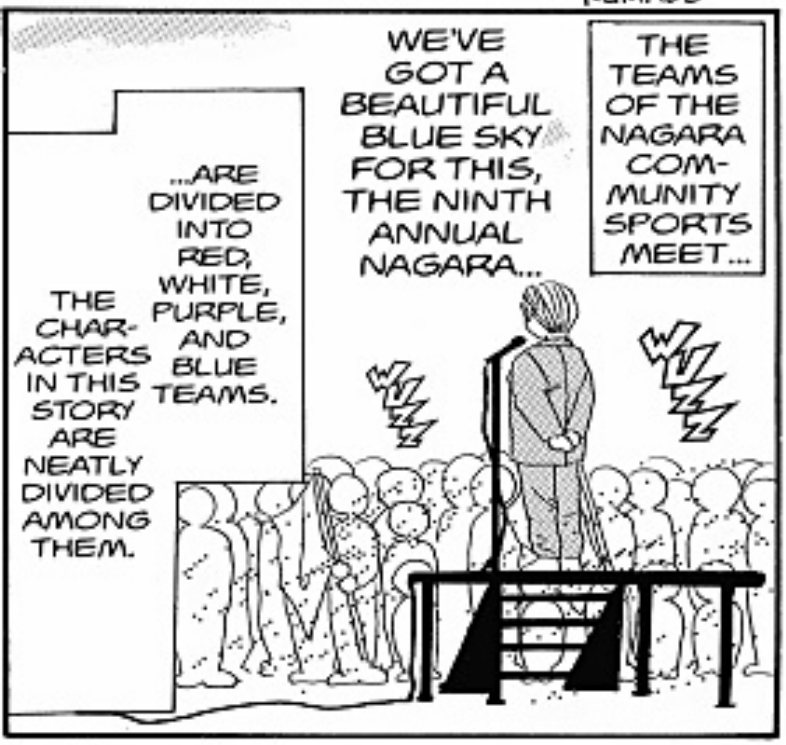
!!
HEE
MINORU
YOU'RE A MATCH-ING PAIR.
ISN'T IT NICE, HIRO?
...
DEVIL HIRO
WHAM
TAKUYA
GON
NO. I THINK WE'RE ON THE WHITE TEAM.
FUJII, ARE YOU ON MY TEAM?
ENOKI, GOTOH, YOU'RE HERE TOO?
WHAT'S THIS?
ICHIKA?
I'M WEARING PUMPKIN PANTS LIKE MINORU TOO!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A MATCH-ING PAIR?!
AND I'M MUCH PRET-TIER!

LET'S CHECK 'EM OUT.
TMP TMP TMP TMP

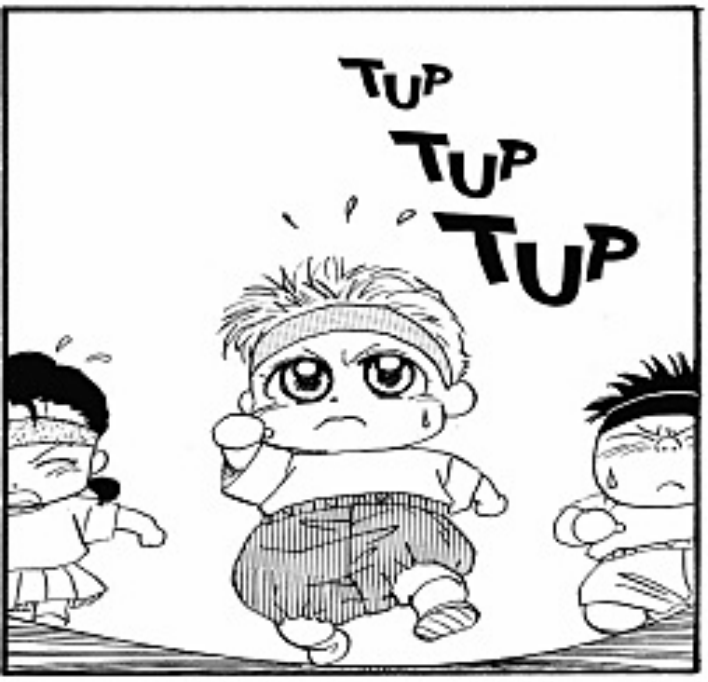
HAVE YOU SEEN THE RED TEAM? WHAT A BUNCH OF LOSERS.

I'M JUST HERE FOR ICHIKA AND MA-BO.
I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO SHOW FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS, FUJII.
WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?

TAMADATE AND KUMADE... LOSERS.
...
I'M NOT GONNA LOSE TO YOU, ENOKI!
KUMADE

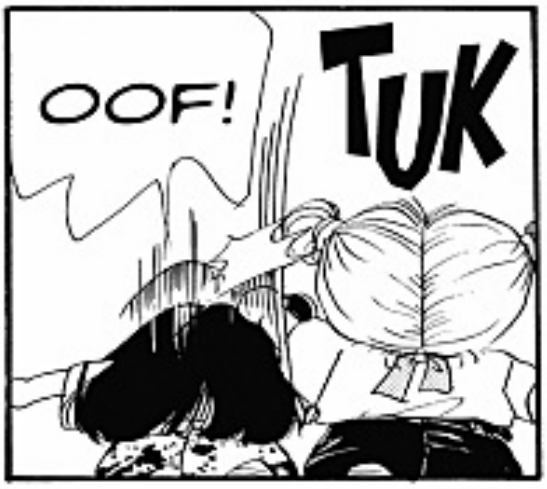

THE TEAMS OF THE NAGARA COM-MUNITY SPORTS MEET...
WE'VE GOT A BEAUTIFUL BLUE SKY FOR THIS, THE NINTH ANNUAL NAGARA...
...ARE DIVIDED INTO RED, WHITE, PURPLE, AND BLUE TEAMS.
THE CHAR-ACTERS IN THIS STORY ARE NEATLY DIVIDED AMONG THEM.

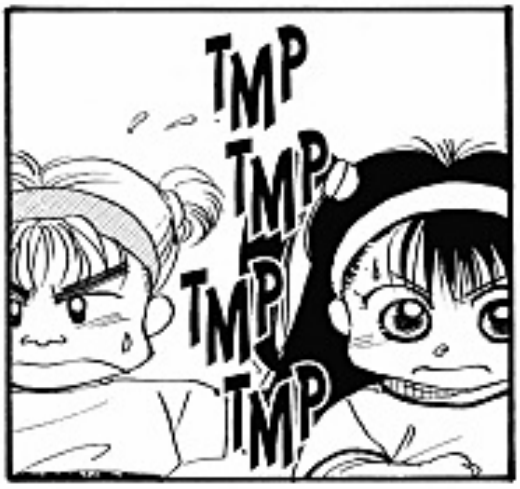
OH!
RED
RED
RED

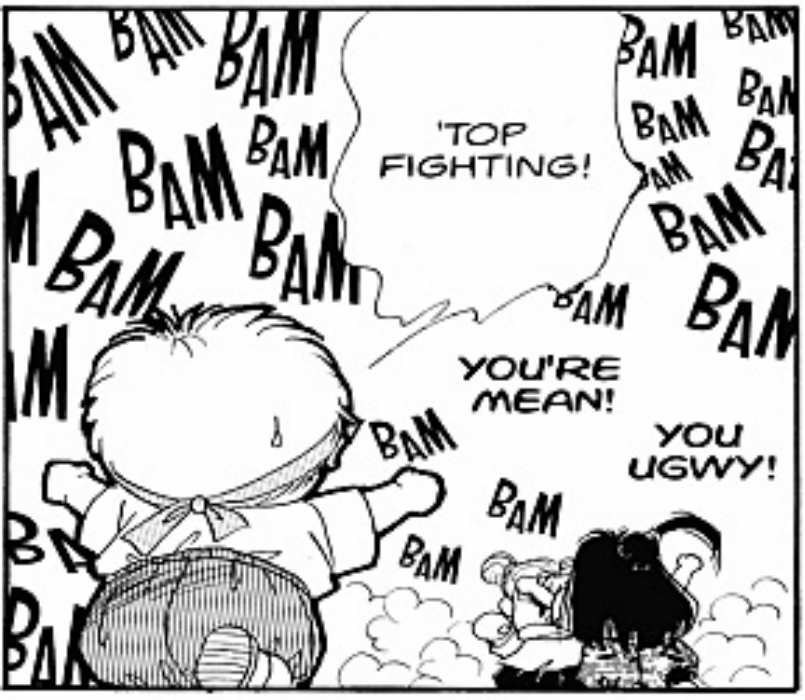

TUP
TUP
TUP

THE 30-METER DASH FOR ELEMENTARY KIDS AND YOUNGER.
GET SET ...
BANG
GOOD LUCK!
YACK
YACK
RAAH

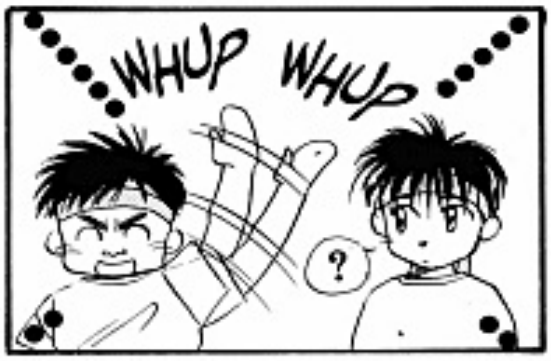
OUCH!
SWAK


OOF!
TUK


TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP


'TOP FIGHTING!
YOU'RE MEAN!
YOU UGWY!
BAM

AAAAH
UGH
WHAM
BAM


WHUP WHUP
?

WHUP

HEY, MINORU!!
BLUE

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
COME ON, TAKUYA!
NAGARA
TMP TMP TMP

ONE MOMENT PLEASE...

YIKES!
WHAM
HEEBIE-JEEBIES

ICHIKA, DON'T EMBARRASS ME, OKAY?
AKIHIRO, I WON THE RACE!
I'LL NEVER LET HIRO BEAT ME!
WHY ARE YOU CRYING, MINORU?
BWAZA ...
WOW, NOW THAT'S BROTHERLY LOVE.
WHY ...
ER... AND THE WINNER IS...
HA!
HEE HEE HEE...
NO.
I'M JUST HERE TO WATCH.
AKIHIRO, WILL YOU RUN IN THE NEXT EVENT? IT'S THE 100-METER DASH.
BANG
READY ...
YACK YACK
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO SEE ME AS HIS RIVAL?
OH BOY...
LISTEN, ENOKI, THIS IS MORTAL COMBAT!
RED

AFTER ALL YOUR BIG TALK, YOU DIDN'T EVEN FINISH IN THE TOP THREE, KUMADE!

MURATA! WHY'D YOU COME IN SECOND, LITTLE BRO-THER?

HUH?

WHEEZE WHEEZE

DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON ME!

WHOOM

BOY, I'M GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO RUN AGAINST YOU, TAKUYA.

HERE YOU GO.

FUJII DECIDED NOT TO RUN.

TAMADATE CAME IN LAST.

I TWISTED MY ANKLE YESTER-DAY...

THUD THUD

OUCH...

IT WAS AT THE RELAY RACE THREE YEARS AGO.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

WHAT?!

YOU WEREN'T THERE. YOU'D MADE YOURSELF SICK EATING WATERMELON.

...

HUH?

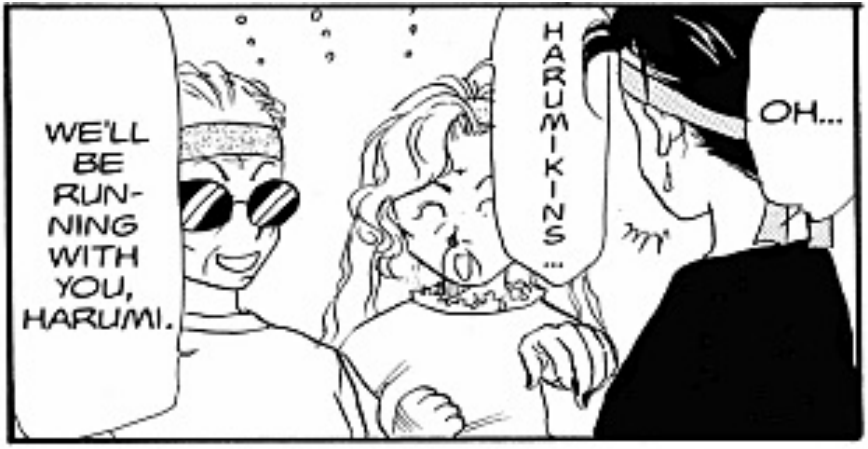
BUT FUJII AND I ALREADY RACED ONCE.

YEAH. I GUESS THIS MEANS WE WON'T GET TO SEE WHICH OF YOU TWO IS FASTER.

THAT'S TOO BAD.

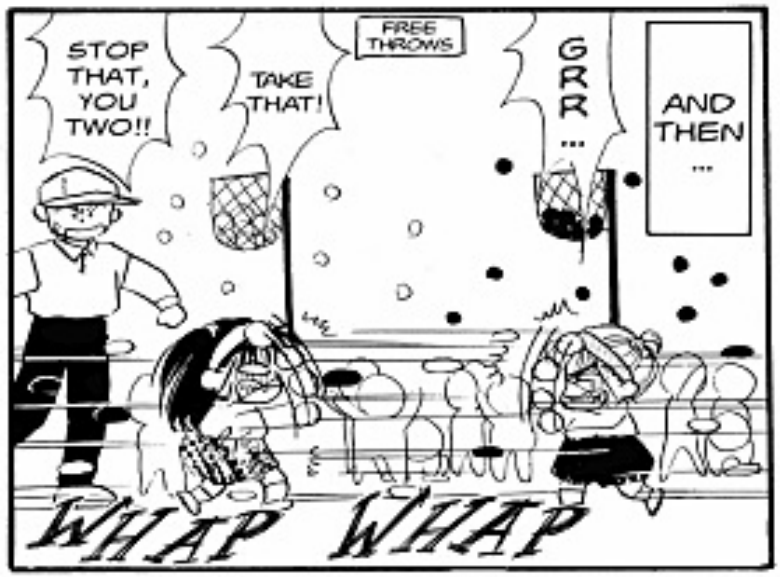
ALL RIGHT.
WUZZ
OH...
WUZZ
WOULD YOU BE MY PARTNER IN THE THREE-LEGGED RACE?
WUZZ
MR. ENOKI ...
WUZZ
WUZZ
OH, MRS. GOTOH ...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY HUSBAND?!
NOW HOLD ON...
I'M GOING TO RUN WITH MR. ENOKI. YOU CAN HAVE MR. GOTOH.
JUST A MINUTE. THERE ARE TWO COUPLES PER TEAM AND THE ONLY MEN ON OUR TEAM ARE MR. ENOKI AND MR. GOTOH.
SO?
MOM, YOU GOTTA RUN WITH DAD!!
...WILL RUN WITH MR. ENOKI.
I...
GRRR ...
SHALL WE?
TO SETTLE THINGS PEACE-FULLY...

DADDY!!
OH, HE'S RUNNING AGAINST MR. AND MRS. KIMURA.
BANG

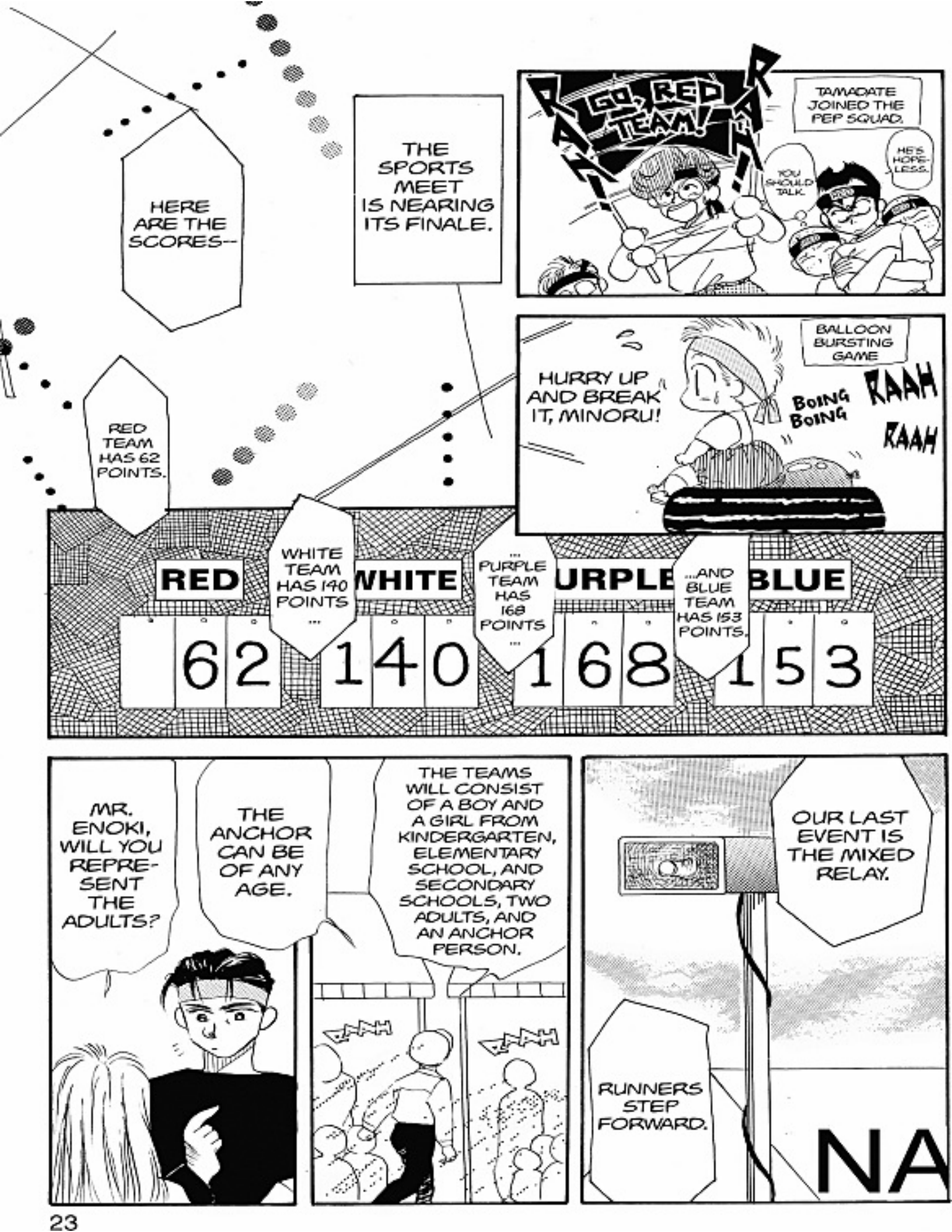

WE'LL BE RUN-NING WITH YOU, HARUMI.
HARUMI-KINS...
OH...

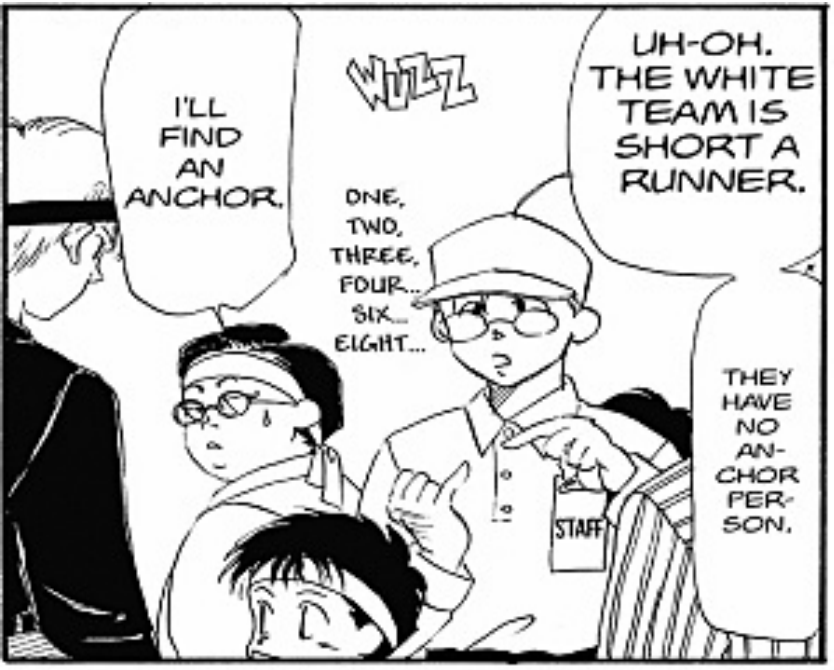
BUT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE HARUMI-KINS TO US.
I'M 30 YEARS OLD.
MRS. KIMURA, I KNOW YOU'VE KNOWN ME FOR A LONG TIME, BUT WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT CALL ME "HARUMIKINS"?

PEACE.
1
2
HA HA HA
HUFF
HUFF
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN ...

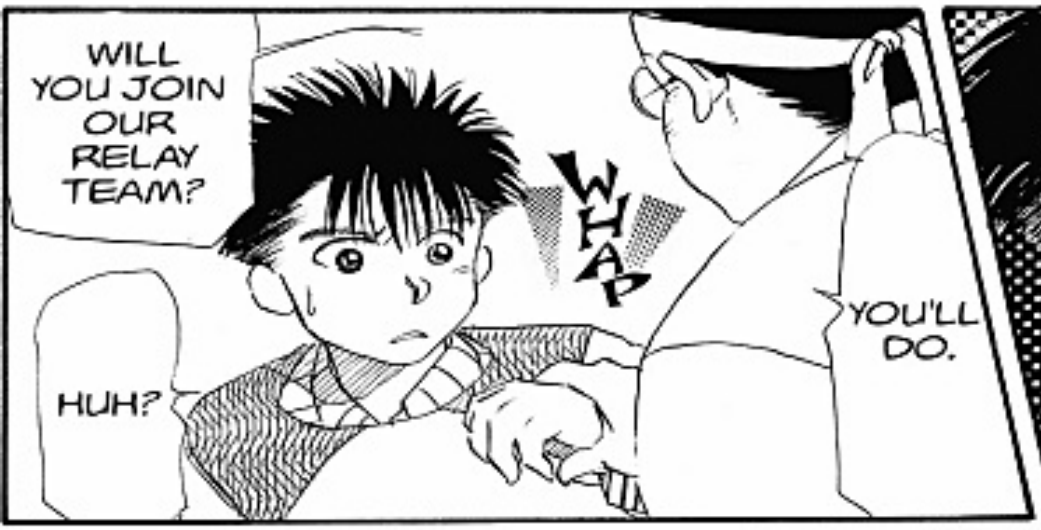

STOP THAT, YOU TWO!!
TAKE THAT!
FREE THROWS
GRR...
AND THEN ...
WHAP WHAP

SWOOSH


HERE ARE THE SCORES--
THE SPORTS MEET IS NEARING ITS FINALE.
GO, RED TEAM!
TAMADATE JOINED THE PEP SQUAD.
YOU SHOULD TALK.
HE'S HOPELESS.
HURRY UP AND BREAK IT, MINORU!
BALLOON BURSTING GAME
BOING BOING
RAAH
RAAH
RED TEAM HAS 62 POINTS.
WHITE TEAM HAS 140 POINTS ...
... PURPLE TEAM HAS 168 POINTS ...
...AND BLUE TEAM HAS 153 POINTS.
RED
WHITE
PURPLE
BLUE
62
140
168
153
MR. ENOKI, WILL YOU REPRESENT THE ADULTS?
THE ANCHOR CAN BE OF ANY AGE.
THE TEAMS WILL CONSIST OF A BOY AND A GIRL FROM KINDERGARTEN, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, TWO ADULTS, AND AN ANCHOR PERSON.
OUR LAST EVENT IS THE MIXED RELAY.
RUNNERS STEP FORWARD.
NA


I'LL FIND AN ANCHOR.
WHIZZ
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR... SIX... EIGHT...
UH-OH. THE WHITE TEAM IS SHORT A RUNNER.
THEY HAVE NO AN-CHOR PER-SON.
STAFF

WHAT?! ME?!
GO ON...
YOU'LL BE OUR ANCHOR, TAKUYA.


WILL YOU JOIN OUR RELAY TEAM?
WHAP
HUH?
YOU'LL DO.

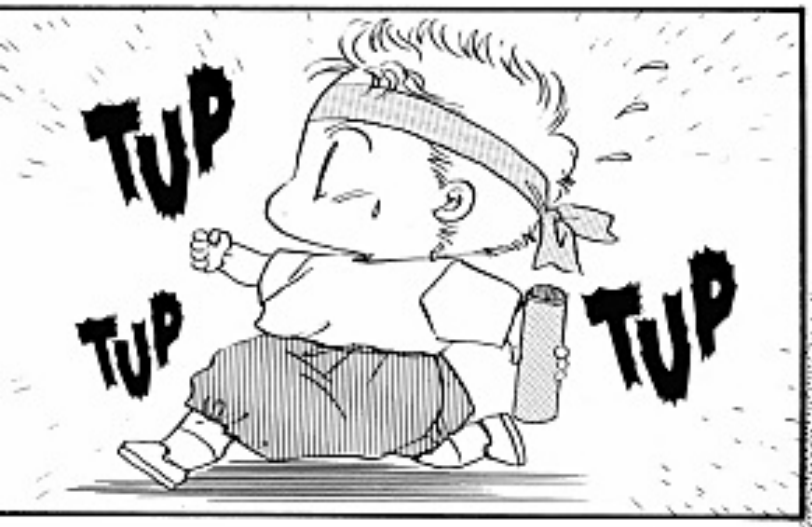
HEY!
YOU THERE!

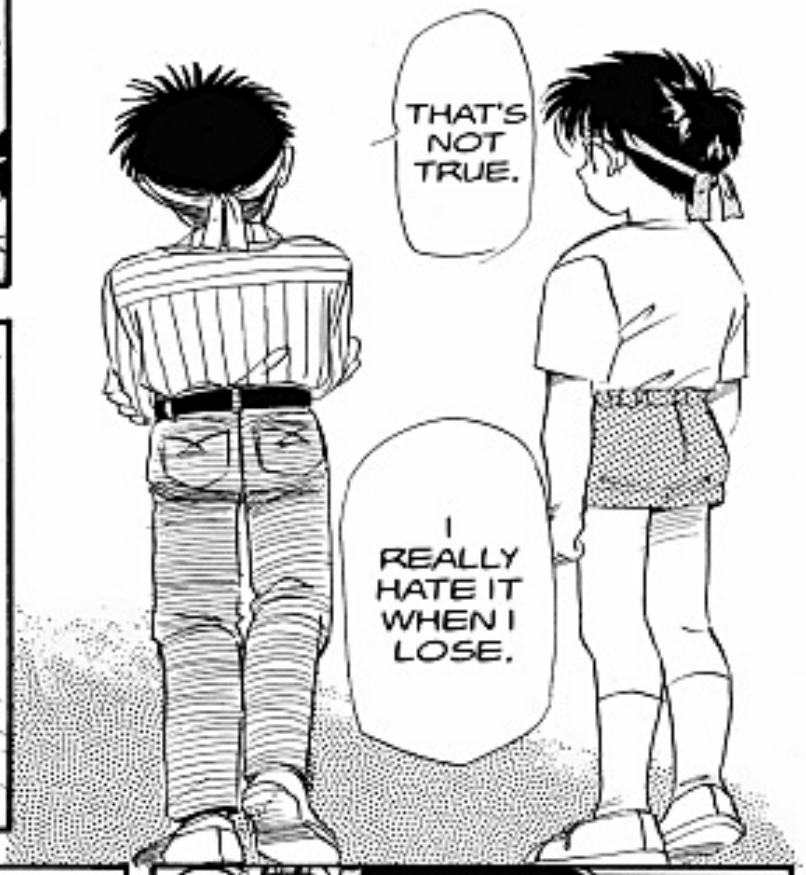
I'VE GOT AN ANCHOR FOR THE WHITE TEAM.
WHIZZ
WHIZZ

FUJII?!
GON ...
HUH?
THE WHITE TEAM.
THE WHITE TEAM?
HUH?!
WUZZ
WUZZ
IS THIS FOR REAL?
WUZZ
BEAT HIM, OKAY?
I'M NOT SURE I CAN.
IS HE REALLY THAT GOOD, TAKUYA?
BLUE
YEAH. HE HARDLY EVER COMPETES, BUT WHEN HE DOES, HE'S REALLY FAST.
WITH FUJII IN THE RACE, THIS WON'T BE EASY.
HE WAITS TO THE VERY END TO JOIN IN. HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ

RAAH
RAAH
GET SET ...
FUJII, DO PEOPLE EVER TELL YOU YOU'RE STRANGE?
WHIP
RAAT
RAAT
RAAH
BANG
NO REASON.
NO. WHY?
YOU SEEM SO SURE OF YOURSELF. YOU NEVER GET FLUSTERED.
COOL-HEADED? REALLY?
RAAH
RAAH
YOU'RE REALLY COOL-HEADED.
ONE TIME SOMEBODY TOLD ME HE COULD NEVER TELL WHAT I WAS THINKING.
RAAH
GOOD LUCK!

RAAH
THERE'S MINORU.
OH...


TUP
TUP
TUP


THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I REALLY HATE IT WHEN I LOSE.

WE WERE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES AND WE HAD TO RUN AGAINST EACH OTHER AS ANCHORS.

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT RELAY RACE BACK WHEN WE WERE IN THE THIRD GRADE?
?

MINORU! PUSH YOURSELF!!

...BUT I COULDN'T PASS YOU. I STILL REMEMBER THAT.

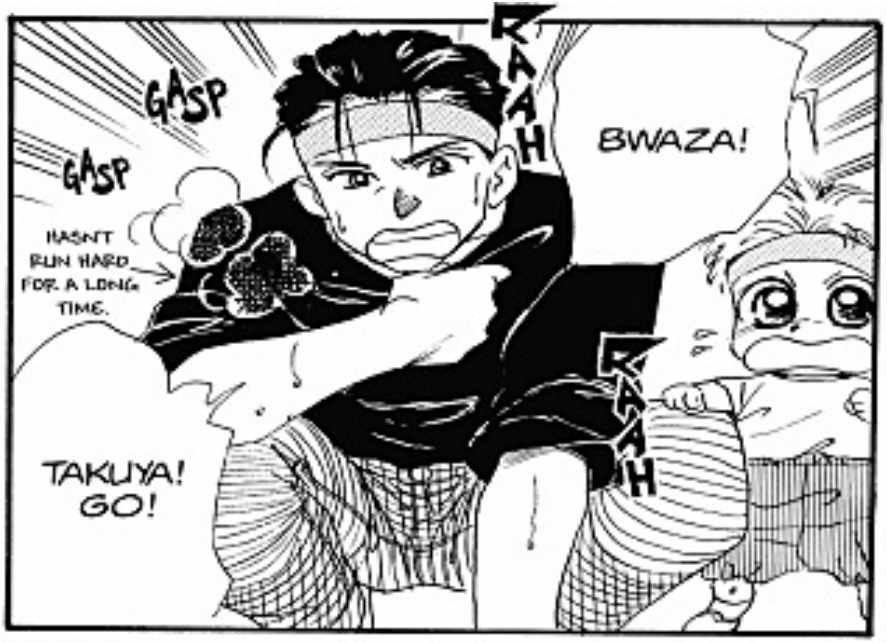
YOU WERE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...

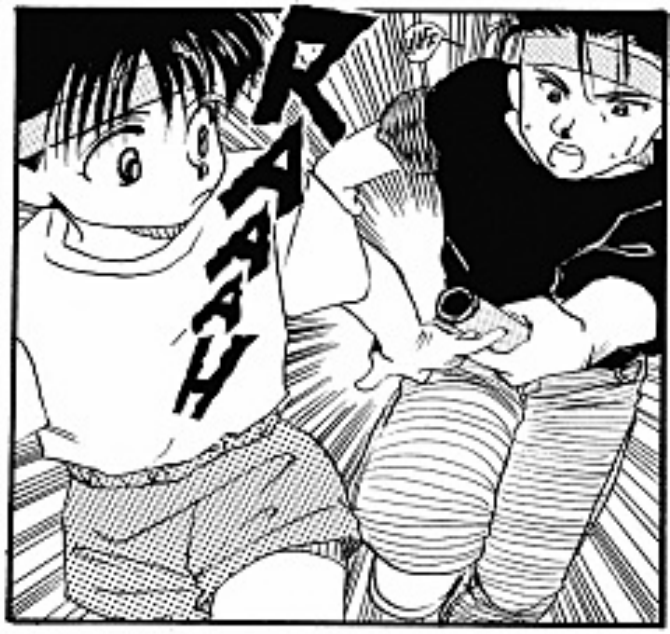
LINE UP IN THE ORDER OF THE RUNNERS.
PURPLE ...
BLUE ...
WHITE ...
...AND RED.
RAAH
PURPLE TEAM!
RAAH

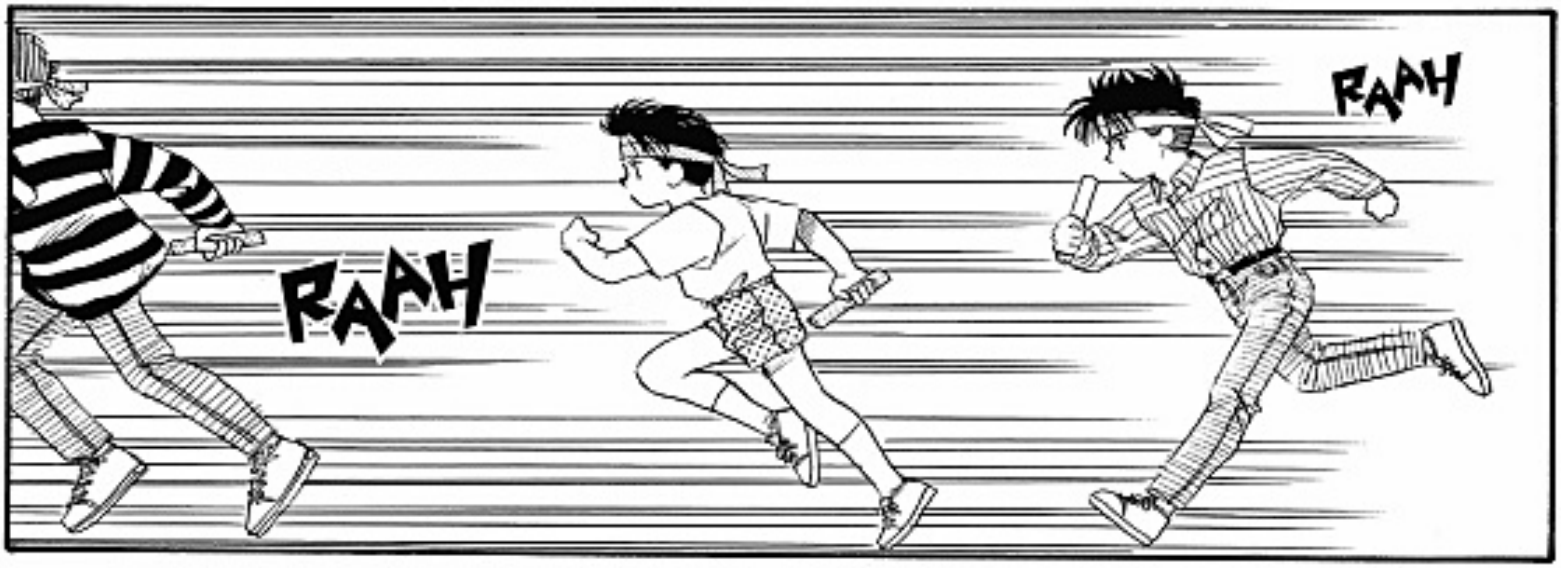
...
ANCHORS, STEP FORWARD.

ENOKI ...
...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S A LITTLE STRANGE.
RAAH
RAAH
RAAH

THAT'S A SUR-PRISE.
FUJII ...
HUH?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D EVEN REMEM-BER THAT.
THAT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD.


GASP
GASP
HASN'T RUN HARD FOR A LONG TIME.
TAKUYA! GO!
RAAH
BWAZA!
RAAH


RAAH


RAAH
RAAH

I KNEW THAT FUJII WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME.
IT WAS A SCARY FEELING.

AT THAT MOMENT...

OH.
YIKES!
OH.
BLUE
OH.
BLUE

BLUE
RAAH
TAKUYA!
RAAH
RUN!
WHOA. THEY'VE LEFT THE THIRD-PLACE RUNNER IN THE DUST.

HUFF
HUFF
JUST A LITTLE...
HUFF
HUFF
...FARTHER...
GRAAA

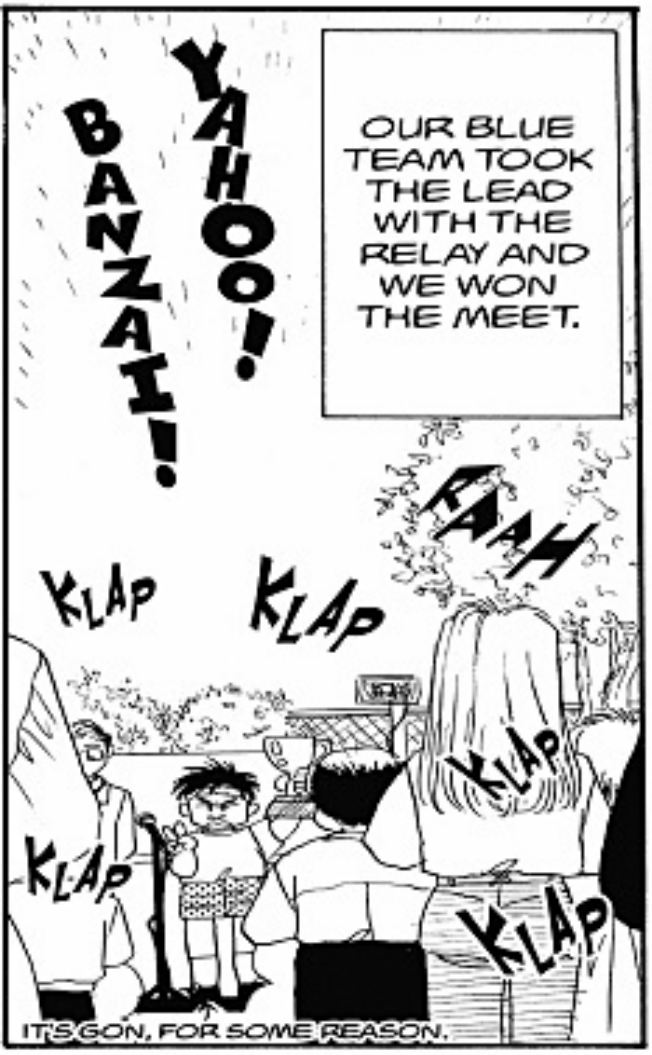
TAKUYA!
GOOD JOB!
KAAA!
HE DID IT!
THIS IS ANOTHER ONE I'M GONNA REGRET.
FWUP FWUP
HUFF
DARN.
GASP
PHEW, I'M TIRED ...
HUFF ...
HUFF HUFF HUFF
HUFF

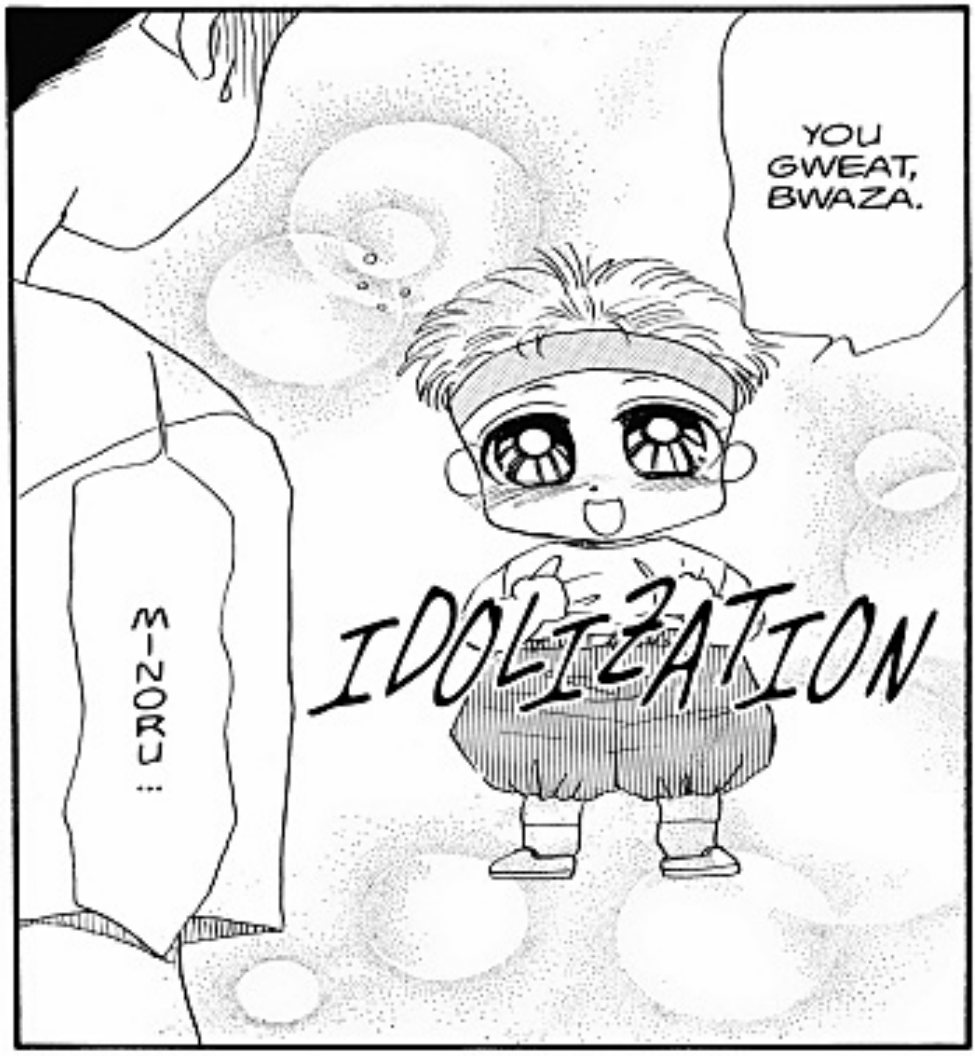
OH...

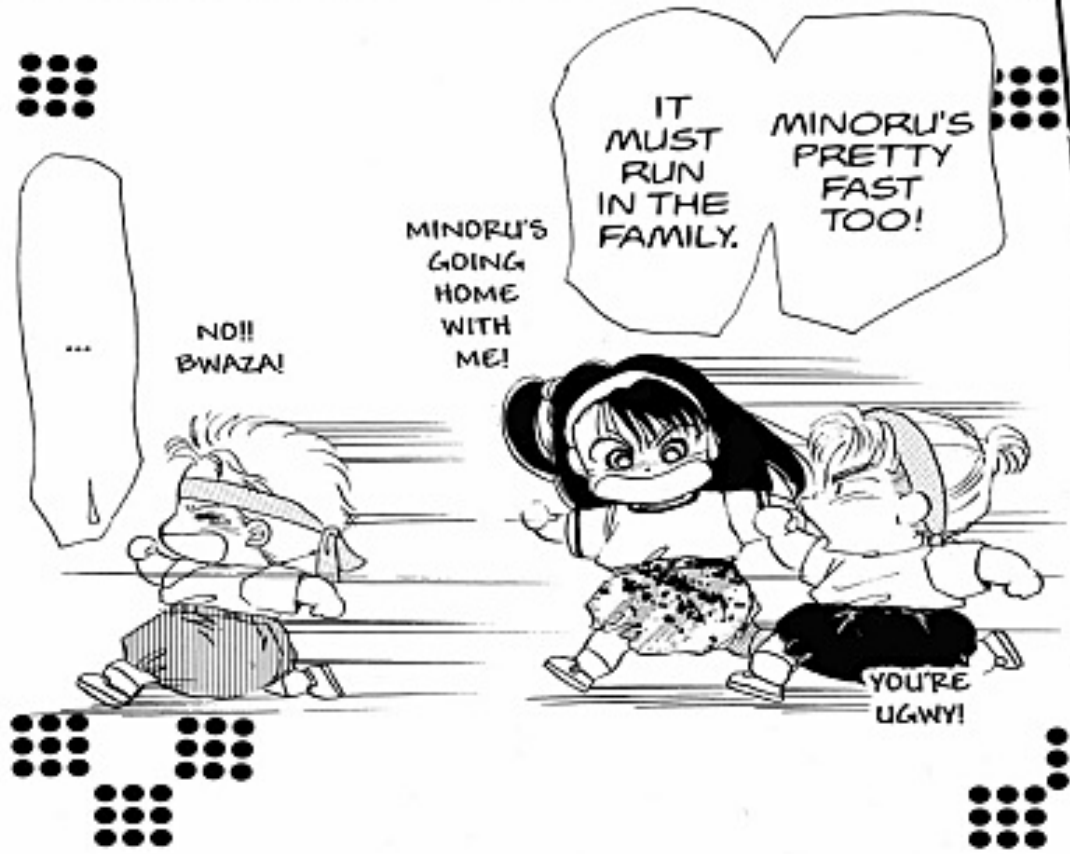
HEY, MINORU.
OH...
!!

IF YOUR TEAM HAD BEEN IN THE LEAD, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PASS YOU, EITHER.

TAKUYA!
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU! ♡
SWOOP
OOF!


YAHOO!
BANZAI!
OUR BLUE TEAM TOOK THE LEAD WITH THE RELAY AND WE WON THE MEET.
RAAH
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
IT'S GON, FOR SOME REASON.


YOU GWEAT, BWAZA.
MINORU...
IDOLIZATION

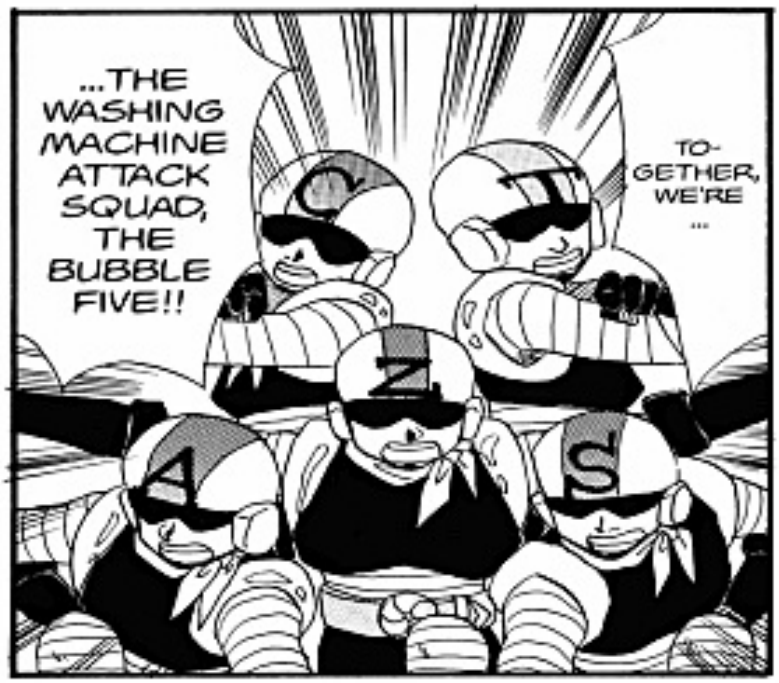


CHAPTER 11/THE END

BABY & Me

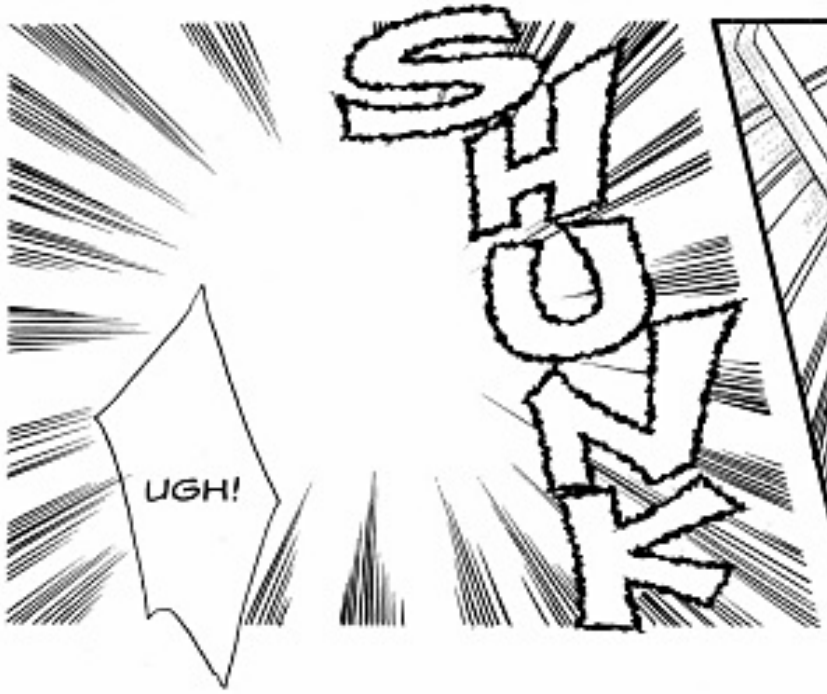
CHAPTER 12

...ARE YOU?!
GRIME
AND WHO...
SURF!
ZAP!
CLEAN!
TOP!
ATTACK!

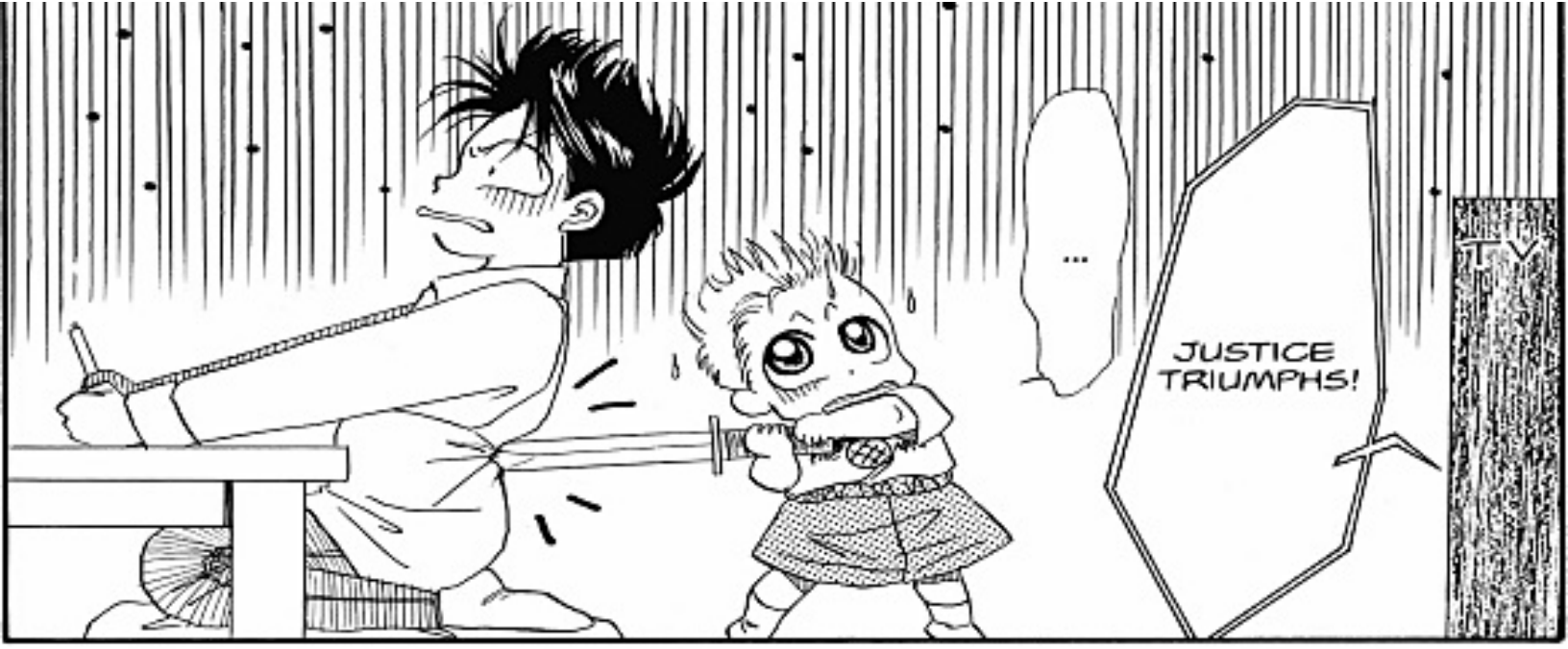

...THE WASHING MACHINE ATTACK SQUAD, THE BUBBLE FIVE!!
TO-GETHER, WE'RE ...

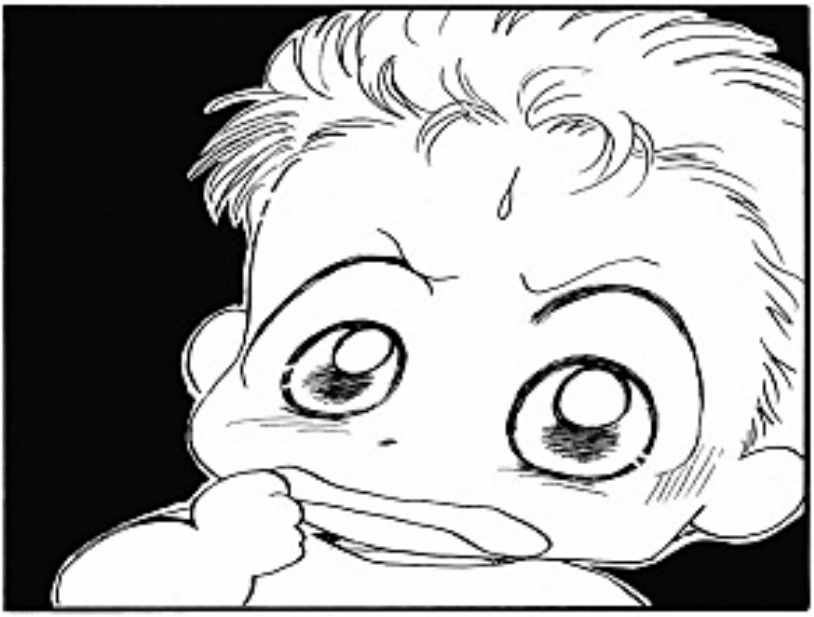
TA-
DOOM

AARGH!
FLASH
ENZYME POWER!! FLASH!!


SHUNK
UGH!

TAKE DAT!

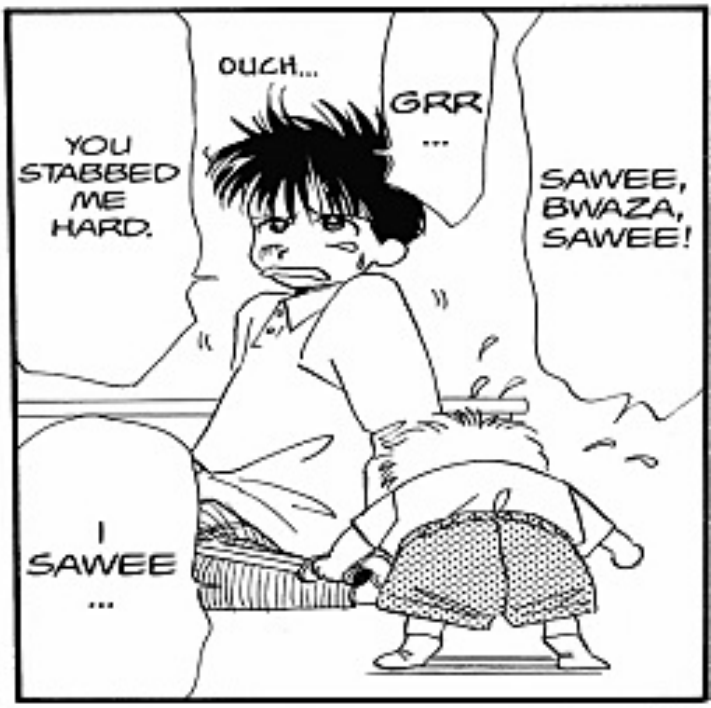

...
JUSTICE TRIUMPHS!
TV



...
MINORU...
TWITCH TWITCH

I WIKE SAP!
ZAP
YEAH ...

YOU LIKE THE BUBBLE FIVE?


OUCH...
GRR ...
YOU STABBED ME HARD.
SAWEE, BWAZA, SAWEE!
I SAWEE ...

I SAP!
FINCH
SWUMP
...
AND WHO...
...ARE YOU?!
OH!
HAH!
UGH!
SHUNK

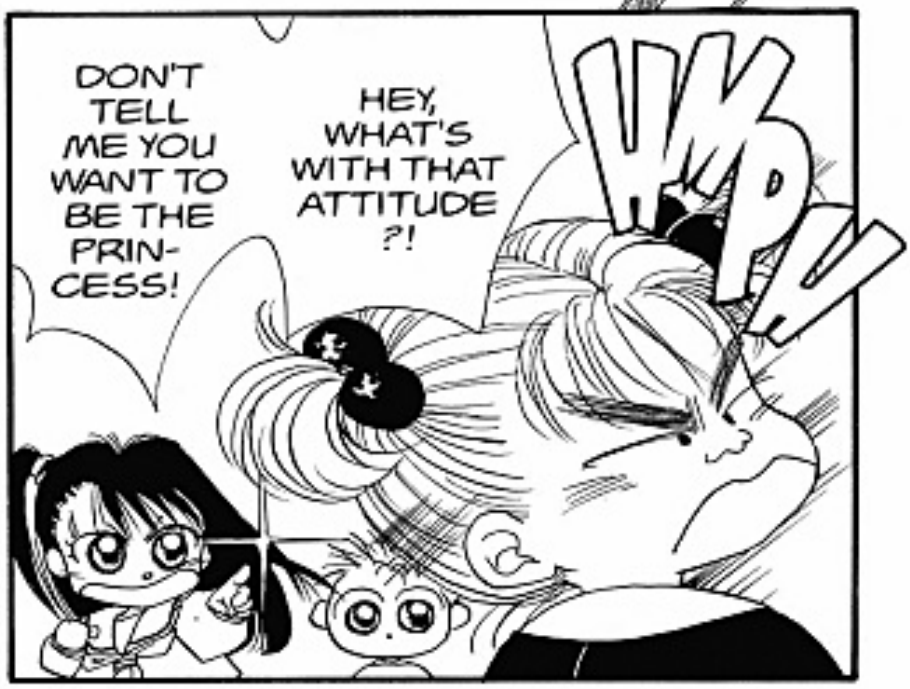
WHAT'S THAT?
WASHING MACHINE ATTACK SQUAD, THE BUBBLE FIVE?
A-ARE YOU OKAY, DAD?
WAAH!
TAKUYA, TAKE THAT THING AWAY FROM MINORU, WILL YOU?
OW!
THAT HURT.
Q: WHERE WAS HE HIT?
WELL, YOU LIKED KAMEN RIDER BLACK WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, TAKUYA. I GUESS THERE ARE NEW SUPERHEROES FOR EACH GENERATION.
YEAH.
SAP...
ZAP'S THEIR LEADER.
THEY'RE SUPER-HEROES IN A TV AD.
WOOOOOOOO
I KNOW WHO ULTRA-MAN IS.
OH, BUT...
BACK THEN, THE CHANNEL CHANGER WAS JUST A KNOB.
...AND THE SCREEN WAS REALLY SMALL.
EVERY-THING WAS IN BLACK AND WHITE...
OLD TV SHOWS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM.
ULTRA-MAN WILL SAVE THE DAY! ♪
WHEN I WAS A KID THERE WAS MAGMA TAISHI AND ULTRAMAN.

HUH? HIRO?
WHO ME?

GRR
YOU'LL BE THE LEADER OF THE BAD GUYS, HIRO.

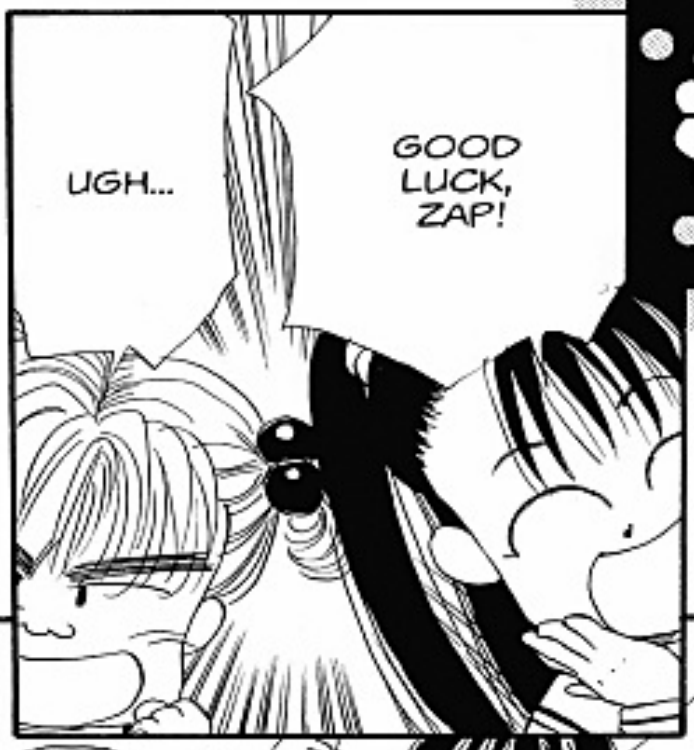
AND I'LL BE THE PRINCESS! AND YOU'LL COME AND SAVE ME!!
YOU BE ZAP, MINORU!

WHAT STARTED IT?
ICHIKA AND HIRO, ARE YOU FIGHTING AGAIN?
WELL, YOU SEE...


DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT TO BE THE PRIN-CESS!
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE ?!
WHOPP

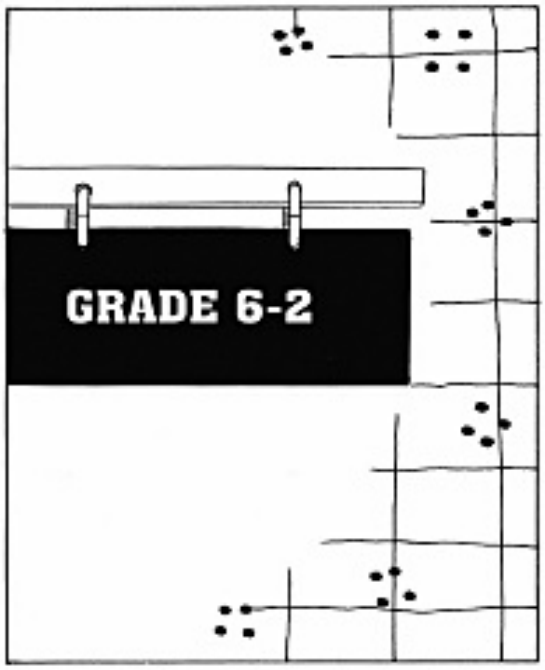
!!
YAP YAP

SAP!
TA-
DAH


UGH...
GOOD LUCK, ZAP!

THE TEACHERS PLAY THE VILLAINS.
BEING A NURSERY SCHOOL TEACHER IS HARD WORK.
HEY, ARE THERE MORE KIDS HERE THAN THERE WERE BEFORE?
RAAHR
GRRR
OH!
WHY DO KIDS GET SO EXCITED OVER STUFF LIKE THIS?!

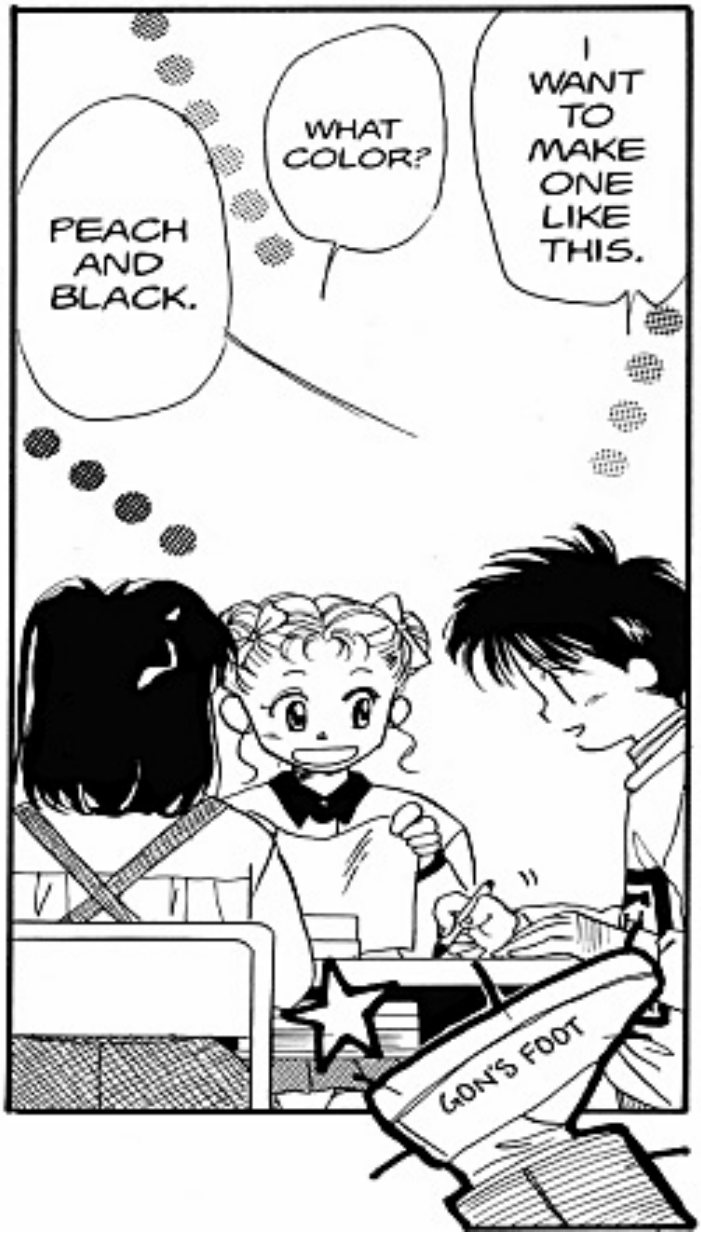
HEY...
...YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THAT.

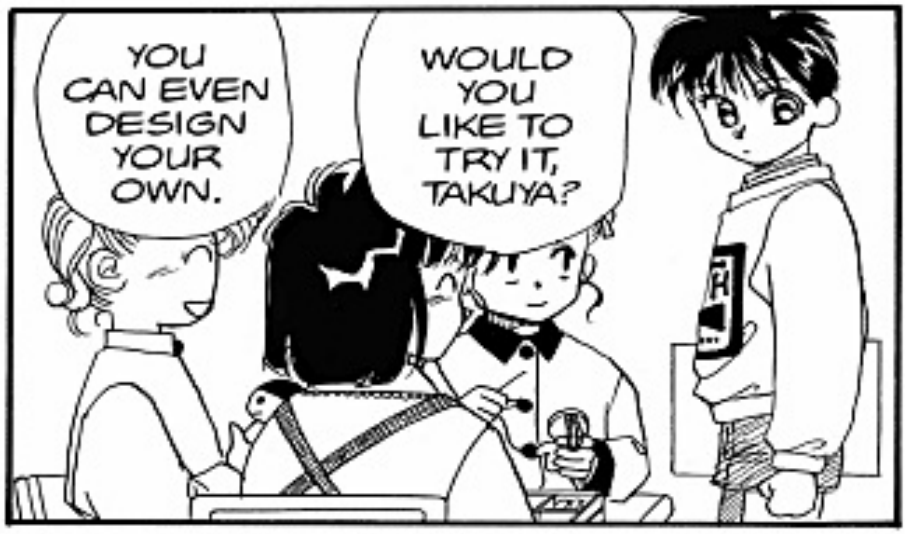

GRADE 6-2

THAT'S FELT. YOU CAN GET IT AT A CRAFTS STORE. IT COMES IN ALL DIFFERENT COLORS.
WHAT'S THIS CLOTH?
A LITTLE THICK.

THE PATTERNS ARE IN THE BOOK, YOU JUST FOLLOW THEM.
MADE EASY

YOU CUT OUT THE MATERIAL AND SEW IT YOUR-SELF?
HUH? YOU REALLY THINK SO?


I WANT TO MAKE ONE LIKE THIS.
WHAT COLOR?
PEACH AND BLACK.
GON'S FOOT


YOU CAN EVEN DESIGN YOUR OWN.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY IT, TAKUYA?

HEY, TAKUYA ...
...LET'S PLAY DODGE BALL.

I'M JUST KIDDING.
...

MARURA DEPARTMENT STORE
THE BUBBLE FIVE ARE WAITING FOR YOU! ON THE ROOF OF MARURA DEPT. STORE
WHAT
AHA
SO WHY DON'T WE GO ON SUNDAY?!
THE BUBBLE FIVE ARE PUTTING ON A SHOW AT THE MARURA DEPARTMENT STORE.
THEY WERE PASSING THESE OUT AT LUNCH-TIME.
YACK
AND NOW FOR THE THIRD QUESTION...
YACK
OH!
WHAP
DADDY!

Author's note 2

SCOOP!

My pet rabbit Yoshizo is a...

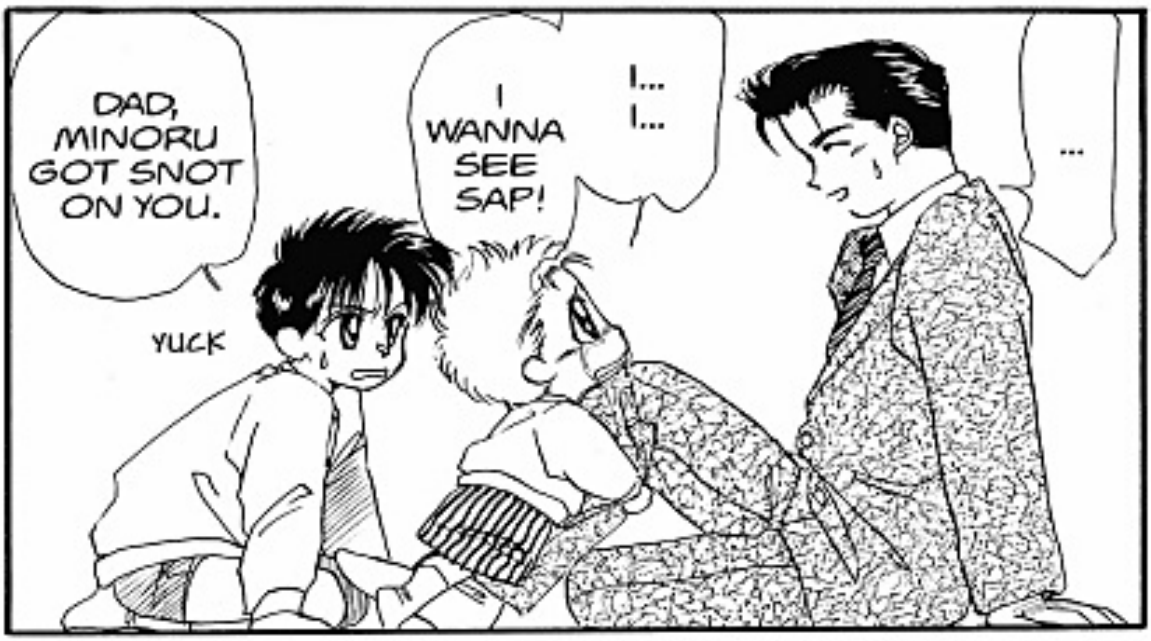
GIRL rabbit!!

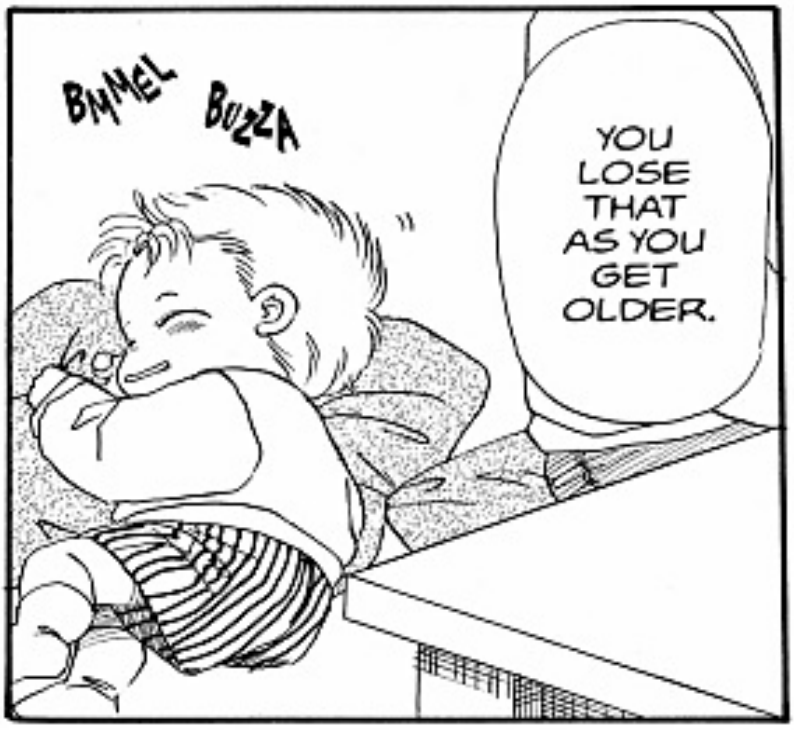
What a shock!

TA-DA!!

How do I look?

Club Juliana Tokyo





YOU KNOW ...
KRUNCH
I FEEL LIKE EATING RICE CRACKERS
I THINK I'VE ALREADY LOST IT.
I...
HEH HEH HEH!
YOU WERE SO CUTE.
YOU USED TO BELIEVE IN DORAEMON.
HE SAYS HE'S WAITING FOR DORAE-MON.
WHAT'S TAKUYA DOING?
BUT IF YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, DORAEMON WILL COME SEE YOU ON SUNDAY.
I'LL BE GOOD.
... DORAE-MON'S NOT GOING TO COME SEE YOU.
TAKUYA, IF YOU'RE GOING TO ACT LIKE THAT...
WHAT?!
HE SAYS HE PROMISED NOBITA SOME-THING.
TAKUYA, DORAEMON SAYS HE CAN'T COME TODAY.

SUNDAY
MARURA
OH!!
IT'S GERO THE MUTANT!
GA-HA
IS IT THAT FUNNY? THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
HA HA HA HA HA
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
F-F-H
WASHING CHINE ATTACK SQUAD, THE BUBBLE FIVE SHOW
GA-HA
BOO!
LET'S ALL CALL FOR THE BUBBLE FIVE!
BOOM
MUTANT GERO! WE'RE HERE TO STOP YOU!!
IT'S THE BUBBLE FIVE! WE'RE SAVED!
BUBBLE FIVE!
SURF!
ZAP!

CLEAN!
TOP!
ATTACK!
SURF!
ZAP!
IT'S OUR SAD FATE TO GROW UP AND FIND SCENES LIKE THIS SILLY.
FLINCH
STOP!
GO 'WAY, GEWD!
RAAK
AAAH
SNAK
SNAK
GA-HA
GA-HA
UGH!
SNAK
SNAK
BUBBLE FIVE, WATCH OUT!!
UH...
OH...
IT'S THE BUBBLE FIVE!!
BOY THAT WAS FUN.
!!
SHUFF SHUFF
WUZZ
WUZZ

TUP
...
GONE
MINORU, THE BUBBLE FIVE JUST WENT THAT WAY.
I'M GETTING A HEAT RASH.
AHH...
THROB THROB
THIS COSTUME IS SUFFOCATING.
HA
PHEW! IT'S SO HOT.
HA HA
YACK
KAORU
WHAT ABOUT ME? I'M ALWAYS THE ONE WHO GETS HIT.
THOSE SCREAMING KIDS DRIVE ME NUTS.
YACK
THEY MADE ME LEARN ZAP'S SIGNATURE.
BUT THE MONEY'S GOOD.
TARO
YACK

SPLASH
KROOSH

YOU HAD US WOR-RIED.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MINORU?

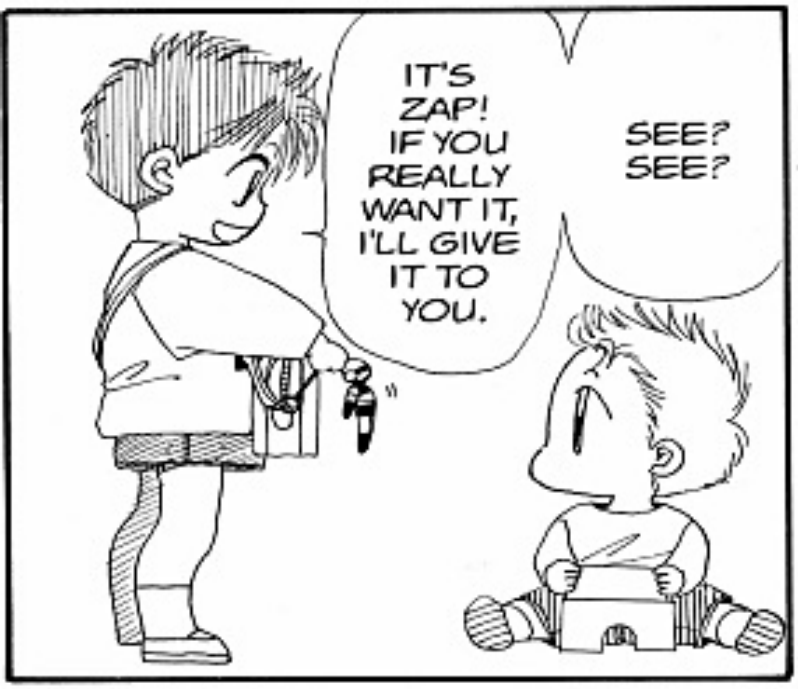
MINORU...

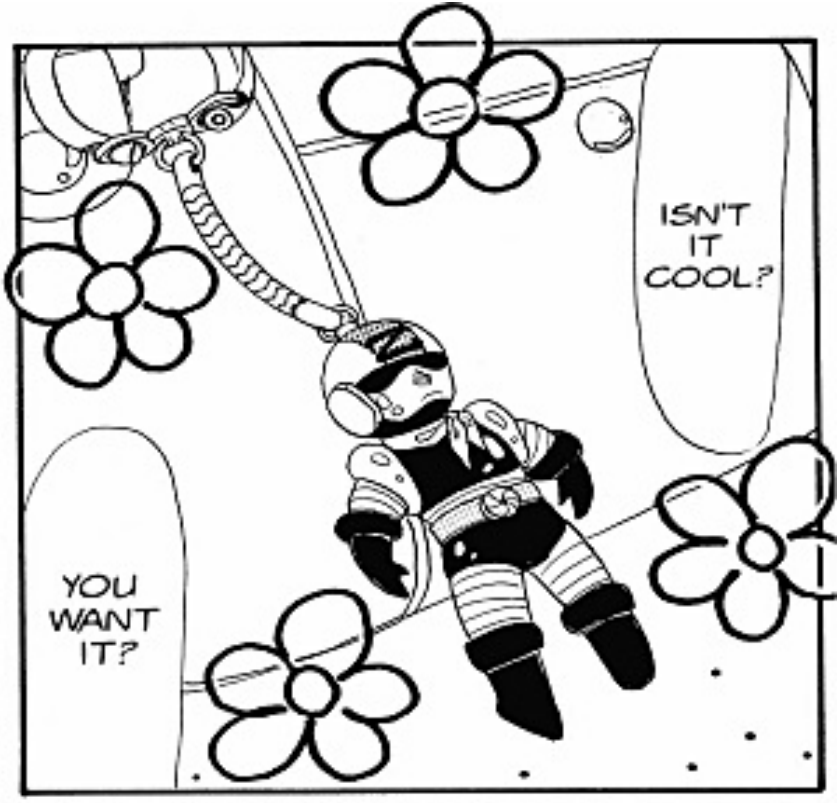
...
MINORU?

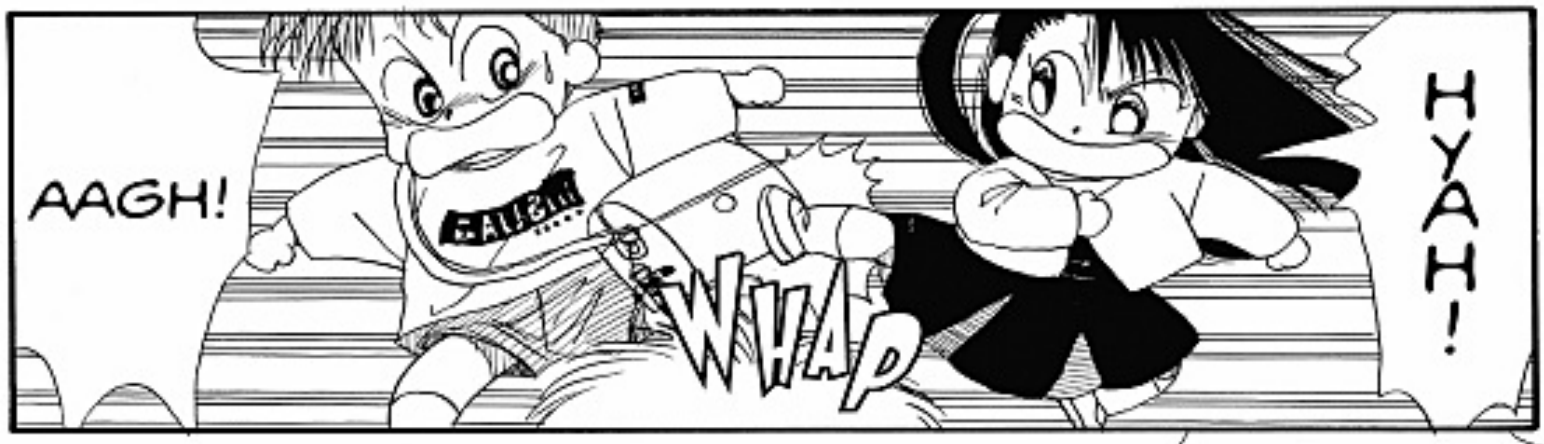
SOB
SOB

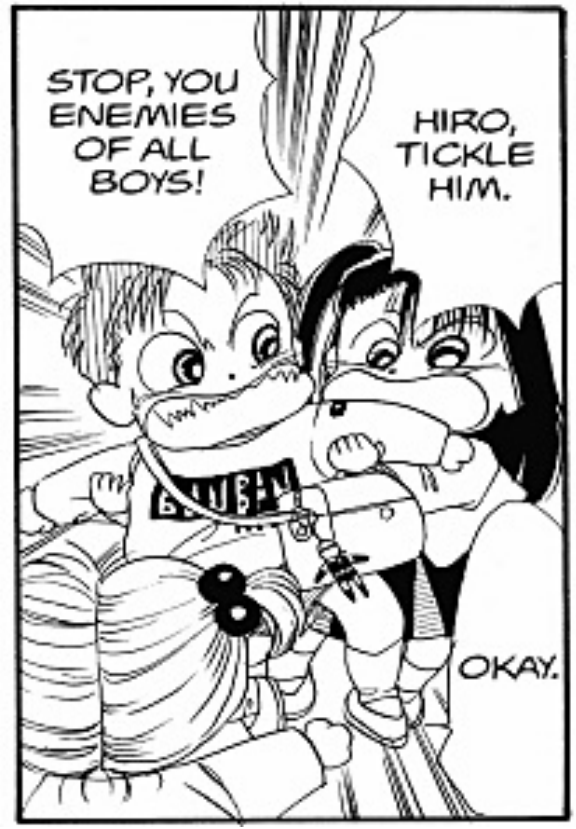
UH-OH! A KID SAW US.
OH!
WHAT?!
GO HOME. WE GO HOME...
EEEEEE
BWAZA ...
WINE
SOB SOB
...BUT INTENSE.
...ARE SIMPLE...
A LITTLE KID'S FEELINGS...

YOU'RE TOO GOOD AT THIS, TAKUYA.
IT'S DONE.
KRK
SNIK
BUT...
THE NECK'S WEAK...
SWUP
AFTER YESTERDAY, HE MAY NOT WANT IT ANYMORE.
KUMANOI CITY SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO. 2
I'M A SIXTH-GRADE BOY. WHAT AM I DOING?


IT'S ZAP! IF YOU REALLY WANT IT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.
SEE? SEE?


ISN'T IT COOL?
YOU WANT IT?


AAGH!
WHAP
HYAH!


STOP, YOU ENEMIES OF ALL BOYS!
HIRO, TICKLE HIM.
OKAY.

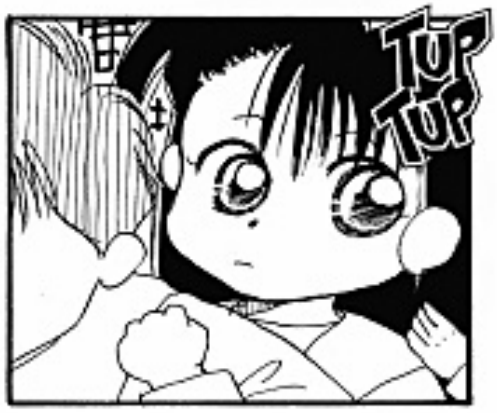
SEE BABY AND ME VOLUME 1 →
I'M MAD AT MINORU.
MASA
HE'S GONNA HAVE TO WORK FOR IT.

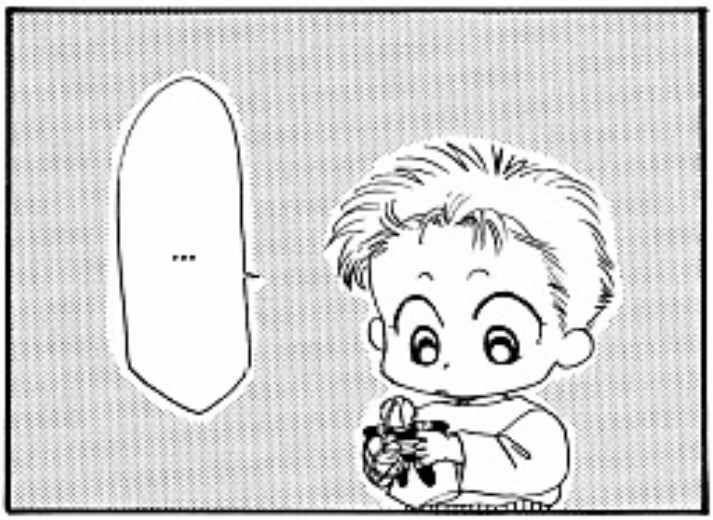
YOU'RE MEAN!
BOP BOP BOP BOP
DON'T DANGLE IT IN FRONT OF HIM LIKE THAT! JUST GIVE IT TO HIM!!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
HUMPH! YOU'RE LUCKY.

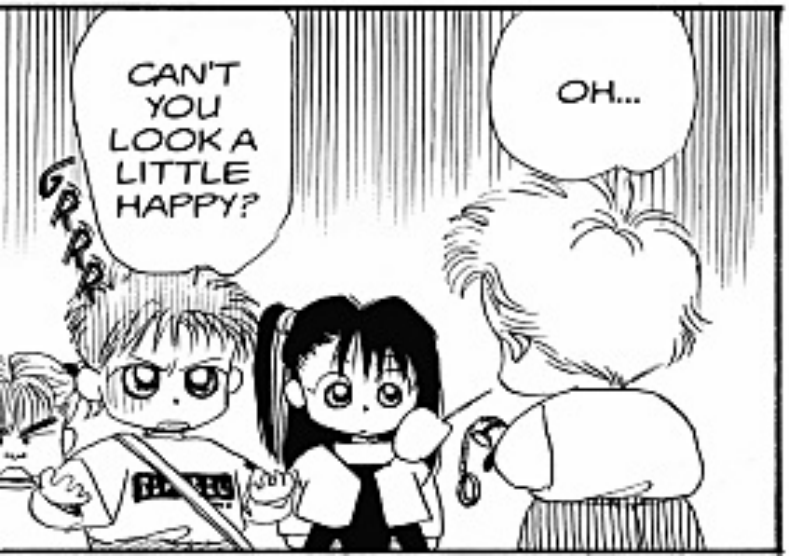
WHAT? WE MUSTN'T BE MEAN TO HIM?
HUH?

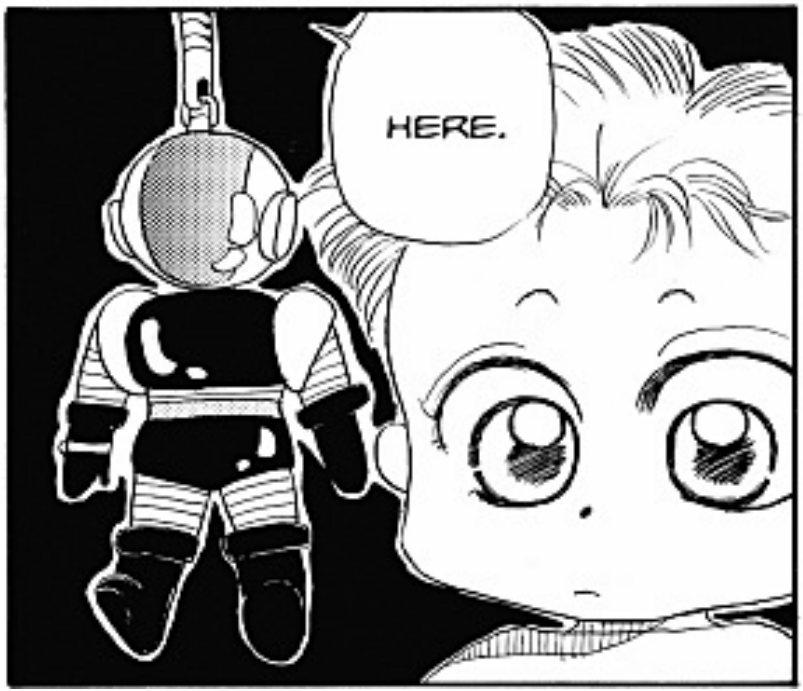
TUP TUP


TUP TUP

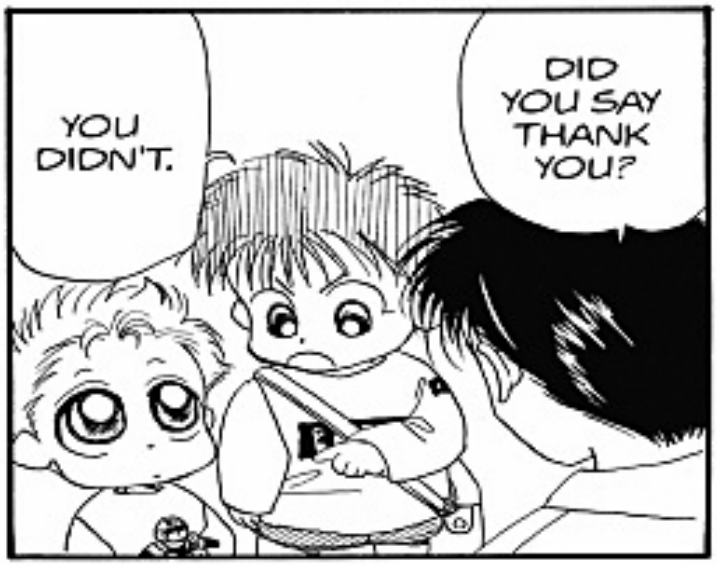

...

KLAK KLAK
WELL, SINCE YOU SAVED ME FROM THOSE BULLIES, YOU CAN HAVE THIS.


CAN'T YOU LOOK A LITTLE HAPPY?
GRRR
OH...

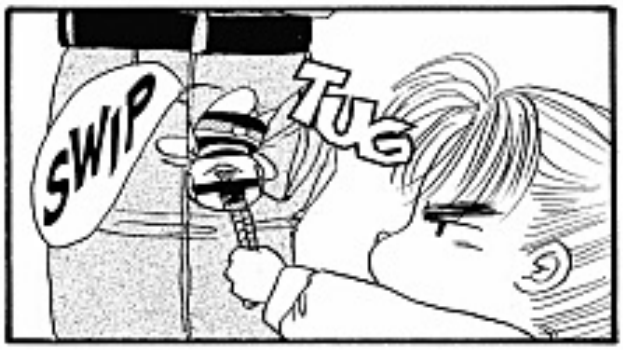

HERE.

OH, MINORU, YOUR BROTHER IS HERE.
BLAH
RUSTLE
BLAH
I GOTS DIS.
BWAZA ...
LET'S GO HOME.
BLAH
BLAH
MINORU ...
SNUFF
RUSTLE

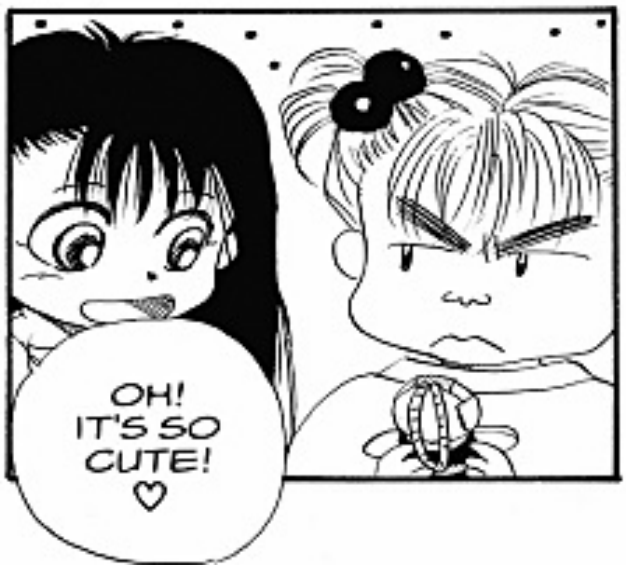

YOU DIDN'T.
DID YOU SAY THANK YOU?

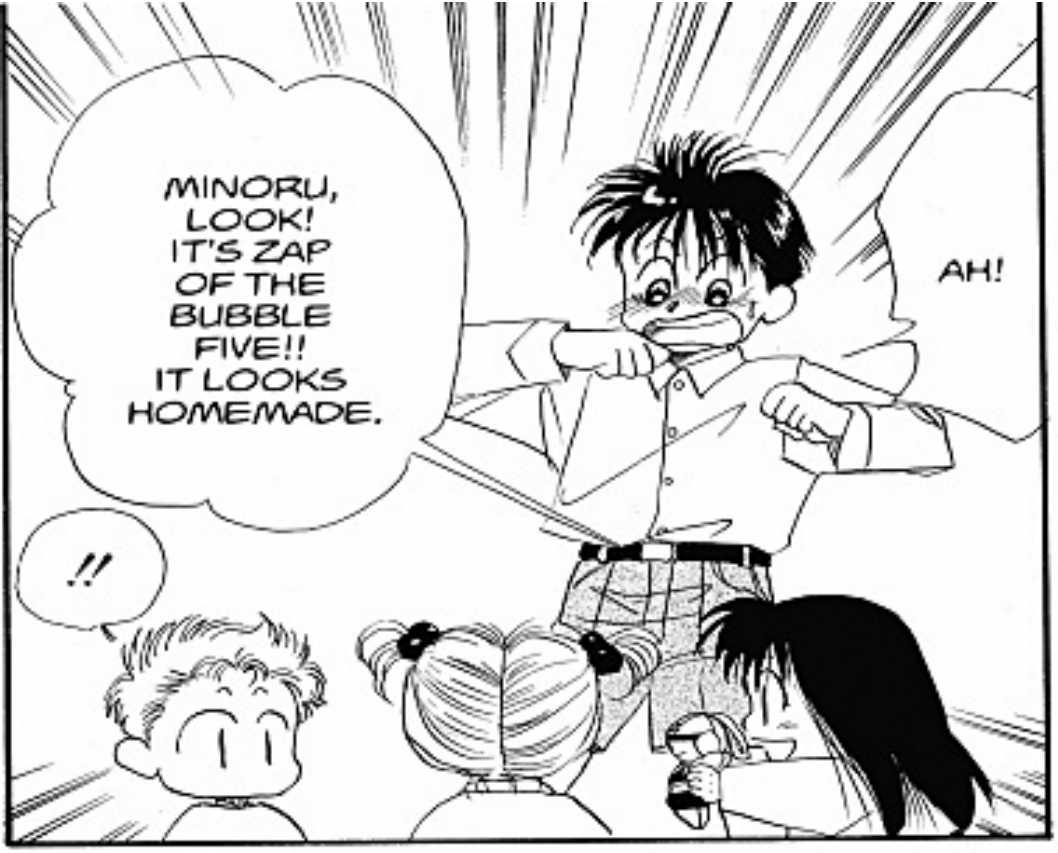
THAT'S A COOL TOY.
REALLY?

STILL HASN'T LEARNED
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WUP

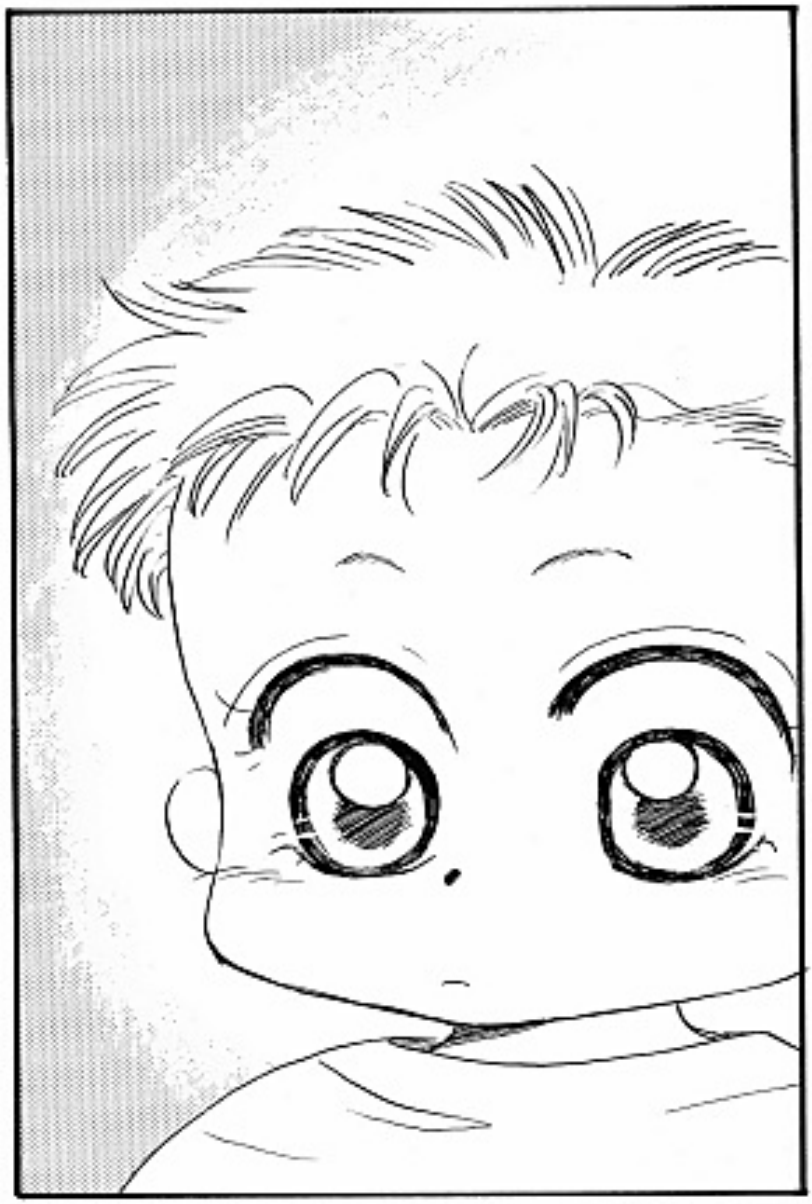

SWIP
TUG

IT'S NOT "TANK YOU BEWY MUCH."
TANK YOU BEWY MUCH.


OH! IT'S SO CUTE! ♡


MINORU, LOOK! IT'S ZAP OF THE BUBBLE FIVE!! IT LOOKS HOMEMADE.
AH!
!!

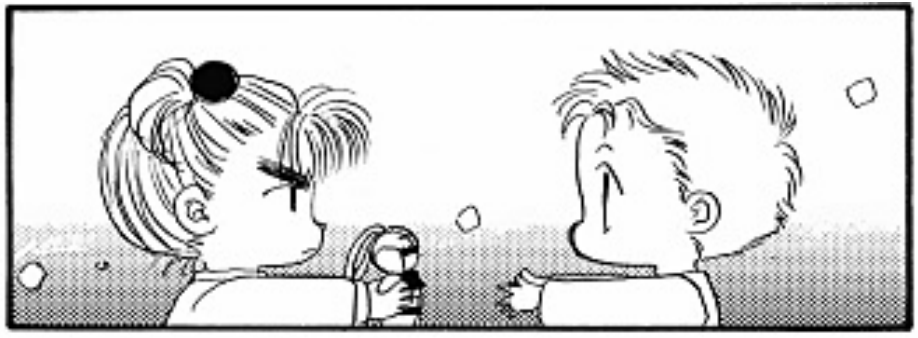
HEY.

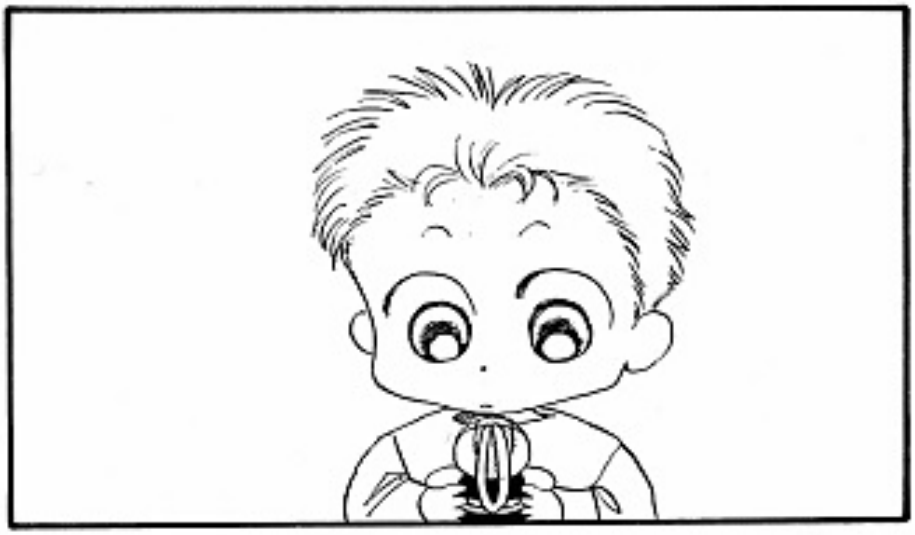


THAT'S, WELL ...
UH, WELL, UM...

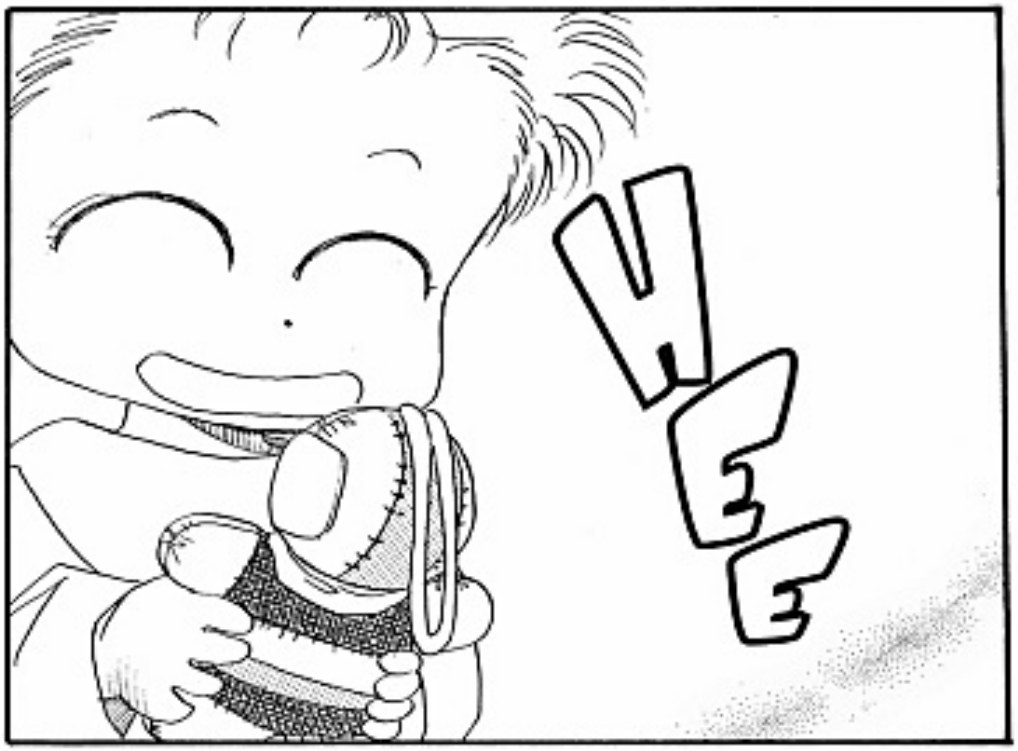
Leen

DO YOU?
MI-NORU, YOU DON'T NEED THAT NOW.





WHAT ?!
Y- YOU'RE GIVING IT BACK?
HERE.


HEE

UH...

BUT...
...IT LOOKED...
TO ME...
...POORLY-MADE AND GOOFY.
HEH HEH!
...MINORU SEEMED SO HAPPY.

YOU'RE SO LUCKY, MINORU.
I THINK THERE REALLY IS A BUBBLE FIVE.
AND IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS TO THINK OF ANYTHING HIRO'S BROTHER WOULD MAKE.
AKIHIRO WOULD NEVER MAKE ME SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
YEAH?
MINORU.

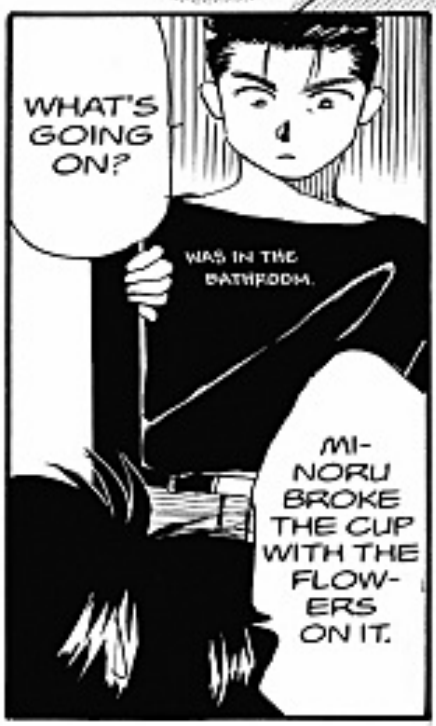
BUT...
BUBBA FIVE...IS WEAL?
...THAT IT'S HARD FOR THEM TO COME AND SEE YOU.
...THEY LIVE SO FAR AWAY...
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, TAKUYA.
I BE GOOD.
YES. AND IF YOU'RE GOOD, I'M SURE THEY'LL COME AND SEE YOU.
KKKKKK
REALLY?
I'M SURE HE'LL COME.
YOU CAN GO ON BELIEV-ING.

DOOM
GASP!!

IT BWOKE ...
OH... IT BWOKE ...

WAAAH!!
PLUP

MINORU, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO BE A GOOD BOY?!
I SAWEE ... DADDY!
WAAH


WHAT'S GOING ON?
WAS IN THE BATHROOM.
MI-NORU BROKE THE CUP WITH THE FLOW-ERS ON IT.

OH. THIS CUP IS ONE OF A PAIR. DADDY'S GONNA BE MAD!
BWAZA, I SAWEE.
I SAWEE ...

OH!!
LET'S SEE... WELL...
SOB SOB
BWAZA, WHEH'S DA BUBBA FIVE?
WAAH!
MINORU, IF YOU DO STUFF LIKE THIS, THE BUBBLE FIVE WON'T COME TO SEE YOU.
OH.
AFTER ALL THIS WITH MINORU ...
THAT WAY!
I THINK I KNOW WHAT MOM AND DAD WENT THROUGH WITH ME.
CHAPTER 12/THE END

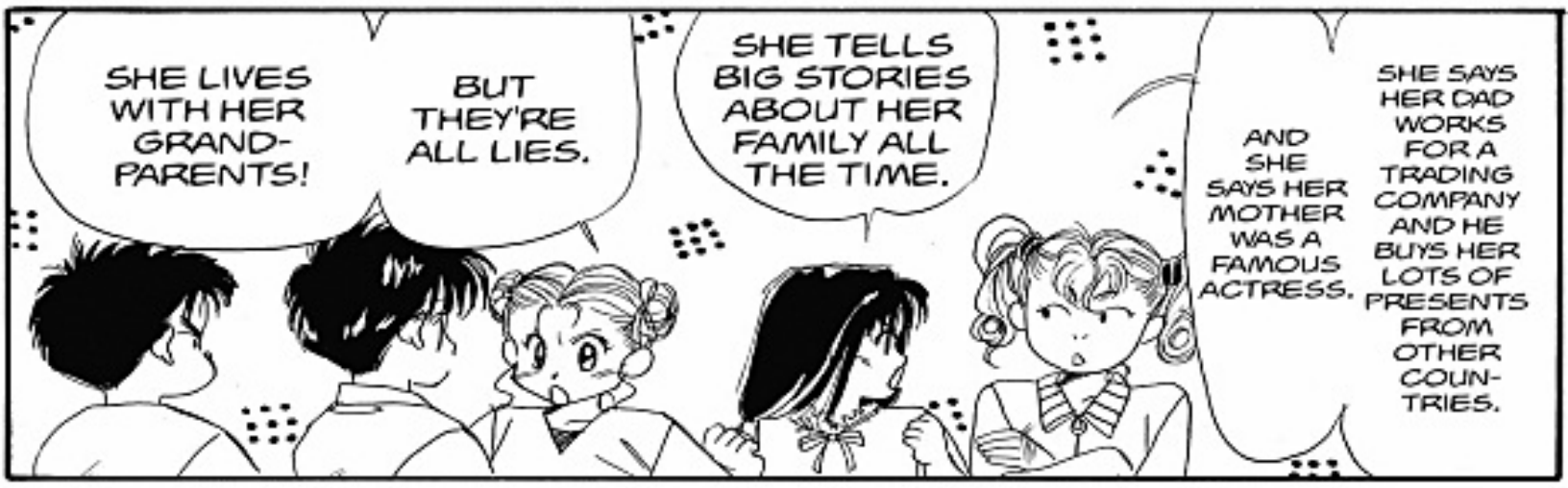
CHAPTER 13

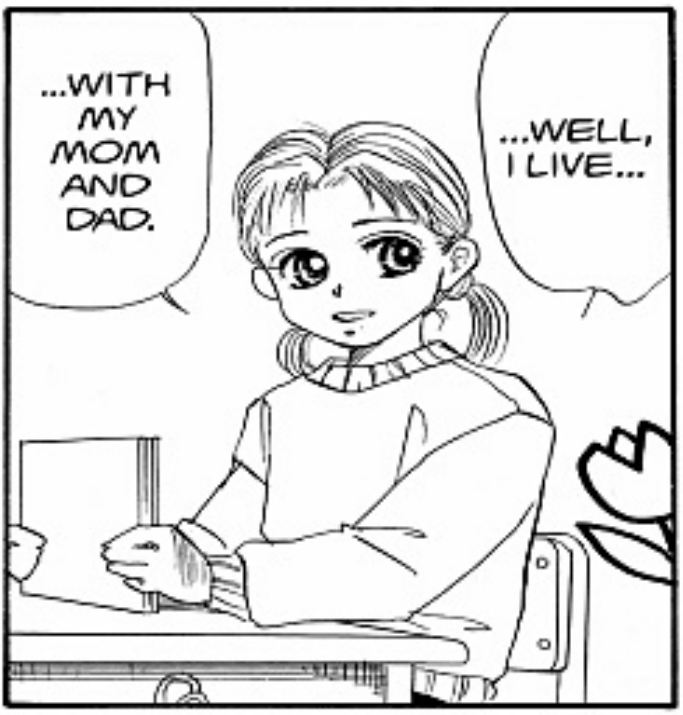
BABY & Me

...AND ...
SCIENCE 6TH GRADE
OH.
I BENT DOWN TO PICK UP THE BOOK I'D DROPPED...
FWUP
A GIRL STEPPED ON IT.
6-2

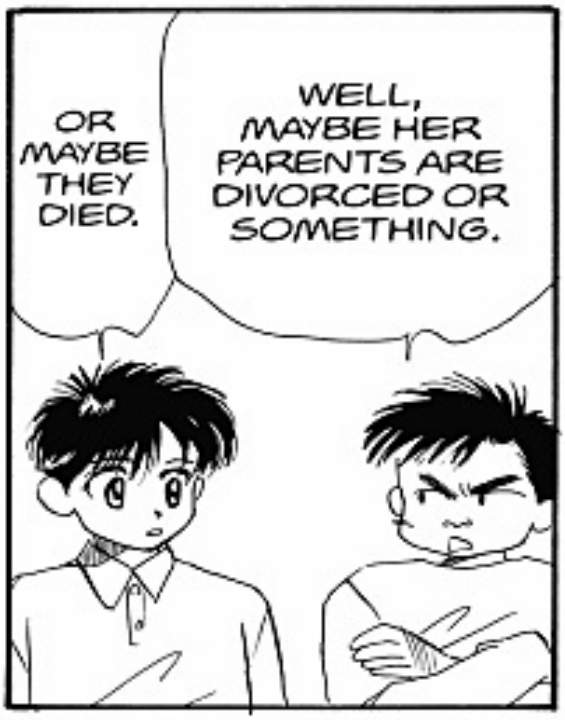
HEY, FUKAYA! WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
...
HER NAME WAS SHINAKO FUKAYA.
...
THAT GIRL...
...HAD A REPUTATION FOR TELLING LIES.
JUST IGNORE HIM, SHINAKO.
THAT'S WHAT MY DAD SAYS.
YOU SHOULDN'T PAMPER GIRLS.
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, WILL YA?!
...ARE YOU GIGGLING ABOUT?
WHAT ...
UM...
TAKE IT EASY, GON.

...YOU'RE WEIRD.
IF YOU'D JUST GET MAD AT ME...
I'D BE ABLE TO READ YOU BETTER.
TAKUYA...
TMP TMP TMP
WHAT?
SHE'S A LOST CAUSE.
SHE TELLS LIES AND SHE'S MEAN.
DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HER, TAKUYA.
...
WHAT WAS THAT?!
BA-BUMP
WHAT KIND OF LIES?
UH...


SHE LIVES WITH HER GRAND-PARENTS!
BUT THEY'RE ALL LIES.
SHE TELLS BIG STORIES ABOUT HER FAMILY ALL THE TIME.
AND SHE SAYS HER MOTHER WAS A FAMOUS ACTRESS.
SHE SAYS HER DAD WORKS FOR A TRADING COMPANY AND HE BUYS HER LOTS OF PRESENTS FROM OTHER COUN-TRIES.


...WITH MY MOM AND DAD.
...WELL, I LIVE...

SO WE ASKED HER ABOUT IT AND SHE SAID...
THAT'S WHAT WE THOUGHT, TOO...


OR MAYBE THEY DIED.
WELL, MAYBE HER PARENTS ARE DIVORCED OR SOMETHING.

WELL ...
I DIDN'T REALLY NEED THEM, SO I GAVE THEM AWAY.
I DON'T HAVE ANY AT HOME.
FUK

AND WHEN I ASKED TO SEE SOME OF THE PRESENTS HER FATHER GAVE HER, SHE SAID...

MY MO-THER ...
...IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY WITH MY FATHER.

SO I SAID, "YOUR MOM WAS A FAMOUS ACTRESS, RIGHT? CAN I MEET HER?" AND SHE SAID...

SHE BROKE OUR LITTLE GLASS HEARTS.
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID! I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!!
STOP BOTHERING ME!
NO MORE QUESTIONS!
AND FINALLY...
WHAT ...
...ARE YOU GIGGLING ABOUT?
SHE SAID ...
I BET THE GLASS IS BULLET-PROOF.
BANG
STAND UP TO HER, TAKUYA.
MY DAD SAYS THAT STRONG WOMEN ARE TROUBLE.
THERE'S A FOOT-PRINT ON IT.
GWWN ...
WHAT DID SHE MEAN?

Author's note 3
About My Older Sister

I think my sister's kind of slow. She talks and moves slowly. When she gets home from work she says, "Boy... am...I...hungry." She draws out all of her words. It's draining just to listen to her. When she helps me with my comics, she doesn't care if the backgrounds match or not. When I have her draw some of the extra characters, she does them from a different perspective than Takuya or Minoru's. One day she offered to do some painting, so I let her give it a try, and she gave Takuya hair that looked like fuzzy moss. She always makes me have to do things over...what a pain. But I wish her all the best, anyway.

This is an example of her moss hair!!

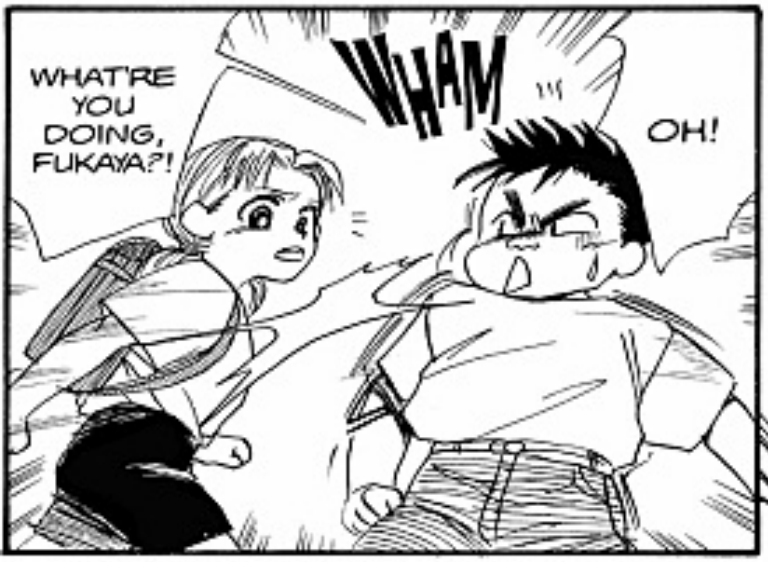
DON'T YOU DARE MOVE!
DON'T MOVE!
...
HERE...
DON'T DARE MOVE! DON'T YOU DARE MOVE! DON'T YOU DARE MOVE!
WOULD YOU LIKE A SUCKER?
ARE YOU WAITING FOR YOUR MOMMY?
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EMPH!
DON'T YOU DARE MOVE!!

...
TOMP TOMP TOMP
WEIRD KID.
TOMP
SHWUK
MINORU...
...GOOD BOY.
WHAT?
YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO TAKE THINGS FROM STRANGERS!!
WHO GAVE YOU THAT SUCKER?!
HEY!
I'M BACK.
MINORU ...
I'VE ASKED YOU NOT TO BUY CANDY AFTER SCHOOL.
SKREECH
HELLO.
SHINAKO ...

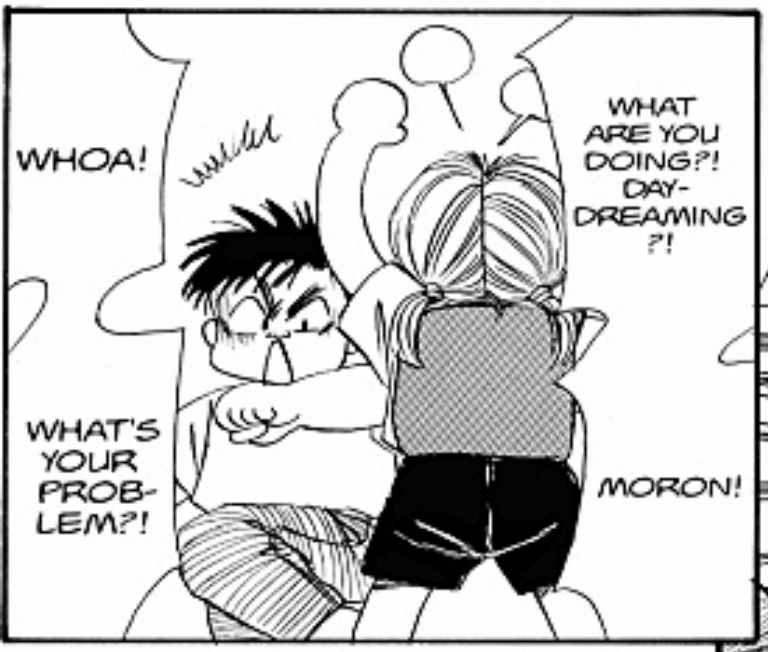
SHINAKO ...
ARE YOU STILL LYING TO YOUR FRIENDS?

BUT YOU'LL BE 80 BY THEN.

YOU SHOULD QUIT YOUR JOB DELIVERING NOODLES. YOU'RE TOO OLD.
SKREECH SKREECH
TMP TMP
I'M GOING TO KEEP WORKING UNTIL YOU GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE.


WHAM
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, FUKAYA?!
OH!

I...
KRK

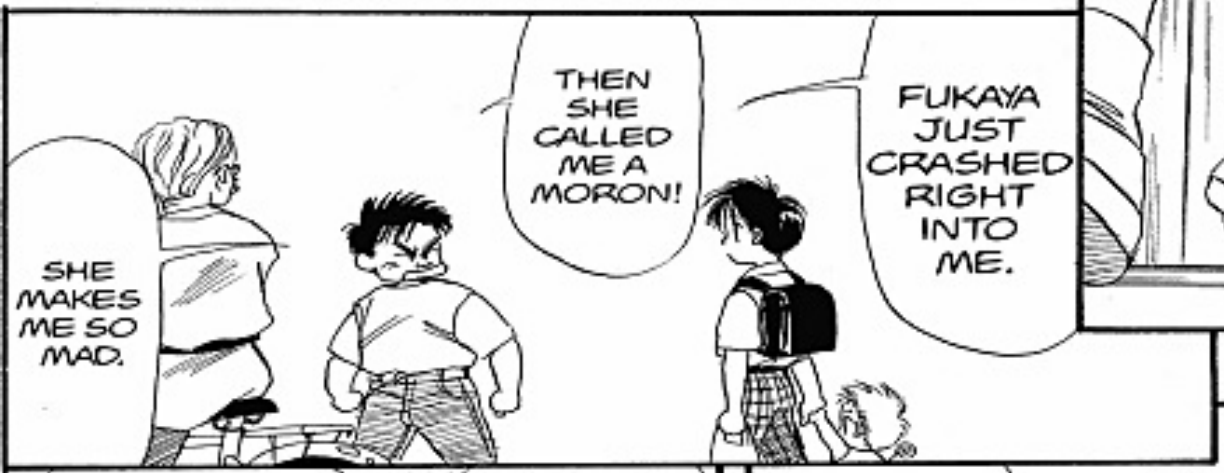

WHOA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! DAY-DREAMING ?!
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?!
MORON!

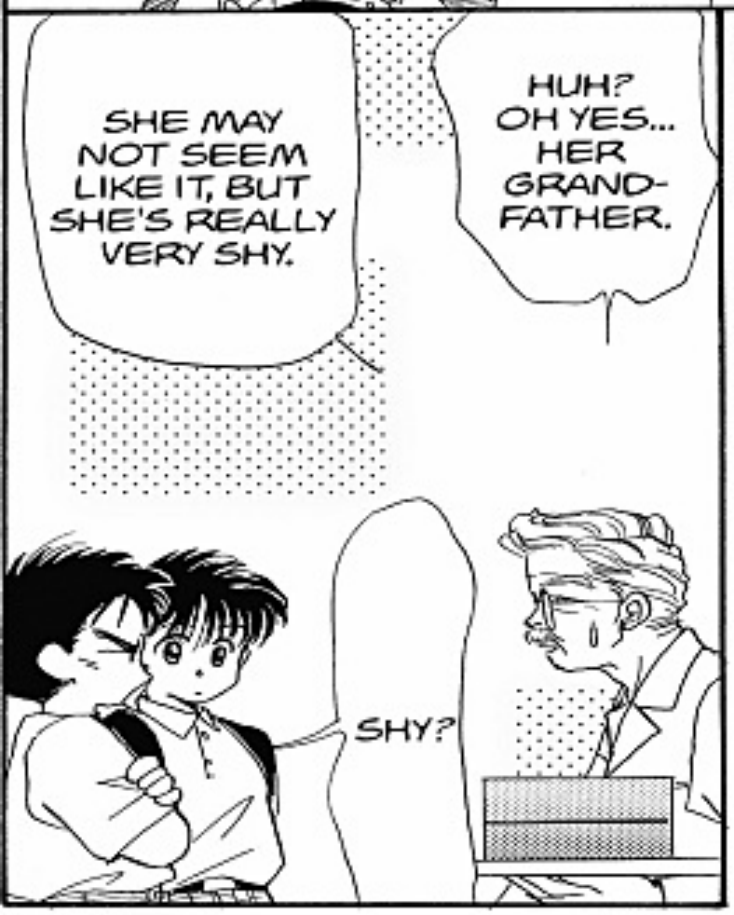
I DON'T LIE TO THEM!!
SHINAKO!?
TOMP

GON!
!!

UM... WHO ARE YOU?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I'M VERY SORRY. I'LL GIVE HER A GOOD TALKING TO.

HEY!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT!!

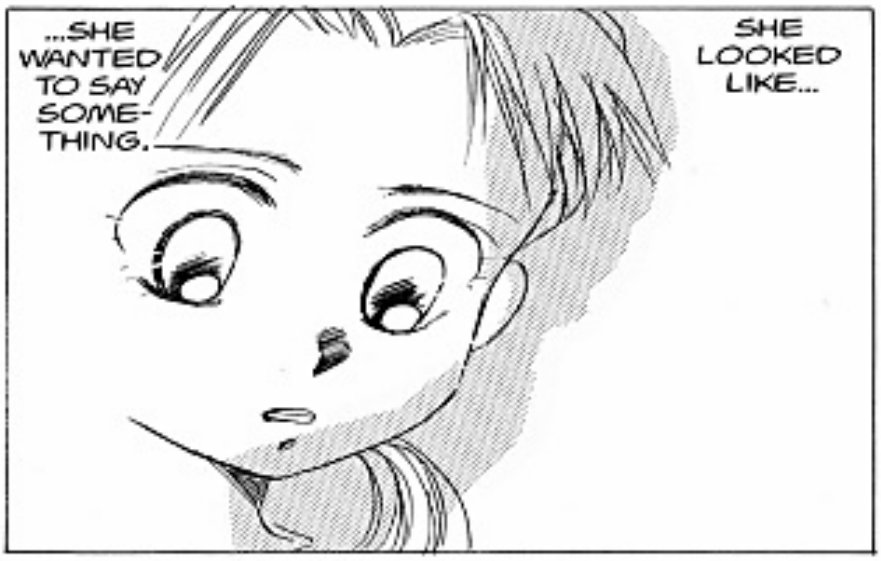

SHE MAKES ME SO MAD.
THEN SHE CALLED ME A MORON!
FUKAYA JUST CRASHED RIGHT INTO ME.


SHE MAY NOT SEEM LIKE IT, BUT SHE'S REALLY VERY SHY.
HUH? OH YES... HER GRAND-FATHER.
SHY?

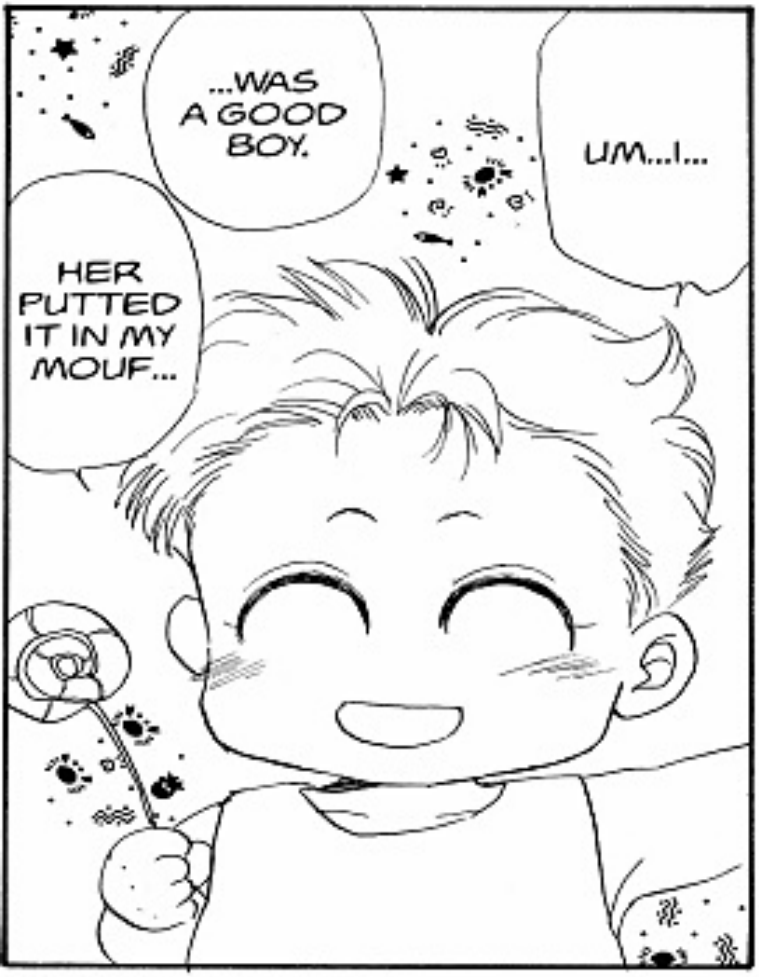
YOU MUST BE SHINAKO'S CLASS-MATES.
ER...

GRANDPA!!
I'M SHINA-KO'S...
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

IF I'D WAITED ANOTHER SECOND...
THAT TIME SHE STEPPED ON MY TEXTBOOK...

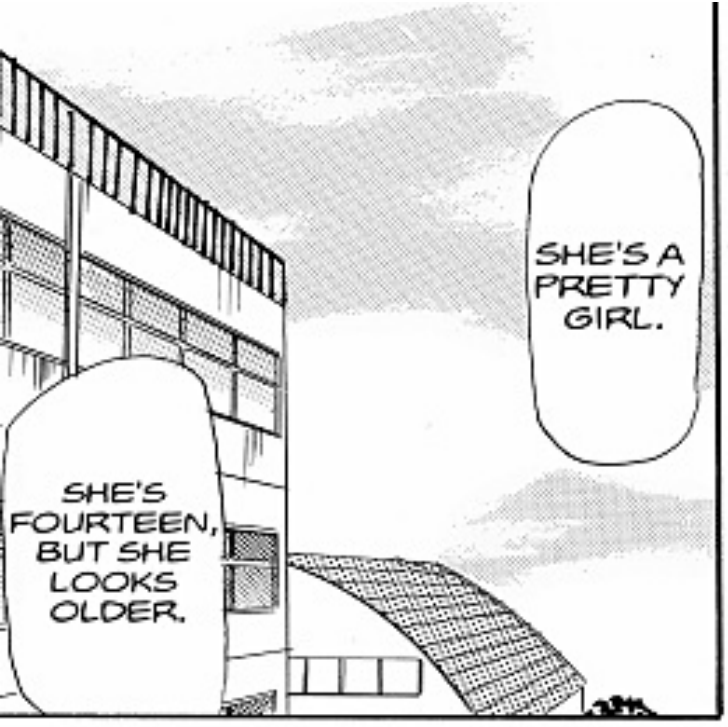

...SHE WANTED TO SAY SOME-THING.
SHE LOOKED LIKE...

HER HOSTILITY IS AN ACT.
SHE'S REALLY A VERY GENTLE CHILD...


...WAS A GOOD BOY.
UM...I...
HER PUTTED IT IN MY MOUF...

LOLLI-POP?
OH, THAT LOLLI-POP...
LOLLIPOP

WHO GAVE YOU THAT?
MINORU ...

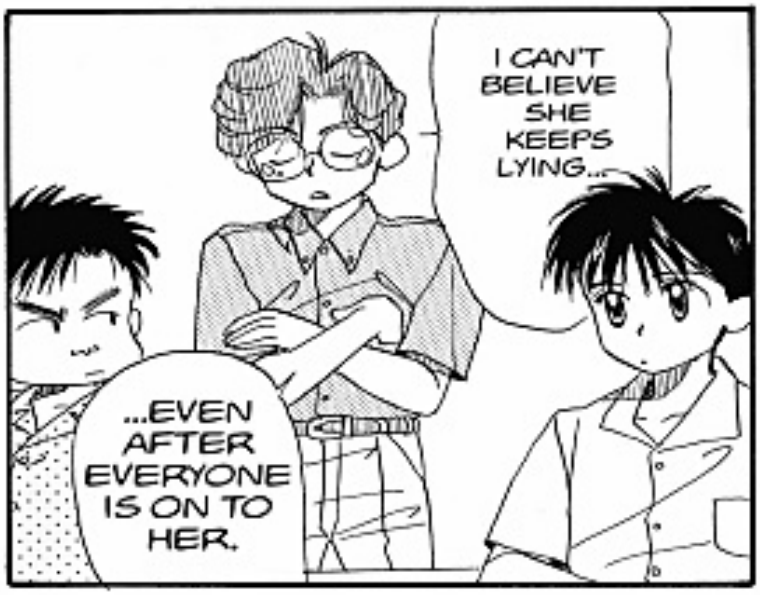

SHE'S A PRETTY GIRL.
SHE'S FOURTEEN, BUT SHE LOOKS OLDER.

UH... UM... DON'T PAY ANY ATTEN-TION TO HIM...
I WAS A GOOD BOY.
?

KILK

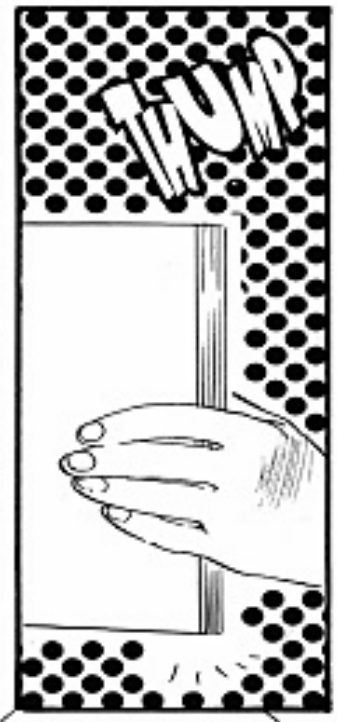
SINCE HER MOTHER WAS A BIG STAR, I WONDER IF SHE'S GOTTEN ANY OFFERS FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD?
YAK
YAK

I'M NOT A PEST!
OH YEAH? WELL, YOU KEEP BEING A PEST...
I JUST WANT THE GIRLS TO LIKE ME!
EVEN THOUGH EVERY-ONE'S ON TO YOU.

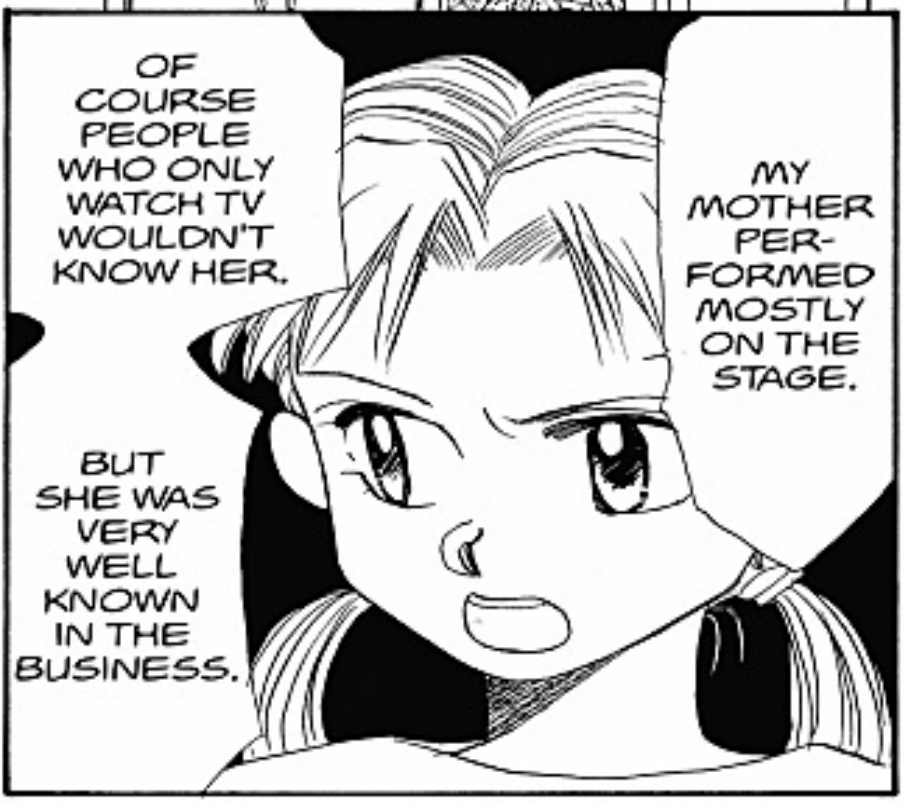

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE KEEPS LYING...
...EVEN AFTER EVERYONE IS ON TO HER.

REALLY?
BUT I TURNED IT DOWN BECAUSE MY MOTHER TOLD ME WHAT THE LIFE OF AN ENTERTAINER IS LIKE.

IF YOU'RE ASKING IF I'VE BEEN OFFERED A JOB...
I HAVE.


TUMP

WHAT'S YOUR MOTHER'S STAGE NAME, SHINAKO?
...
KAORU HIBINO.


MY MOTHER PERFORMED MOSTLY ON THE STAGE.
OF COURSE PEOPLE WHO ONLY WATCH TV WOULDN'T KNOW HER.
BUT SHE WAS VERY WELL KNOWN IN THE BUSINESS.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HER.
SHE'S DIGGING HERSELF DEEPER INTO THE MUCK. SHE SHOULD STOP NOW.
ME NEITHER.

...SO I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
I-I TAKE AFTER MY FATHER...
YOU'RE GOING TO BE BEAUTIFUL TOO.
THEN THAT MEANS ...
AND...
...SHE WAS REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
I TOLD YOU, SHE'S NOT HERE. SHE'S GONE ABROAD!
WE WANT TO SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL MOTHER OF YOURS!
TOM
...
SHE'S STUB-BORN.
WHY DOES SHE TELL SUCH OBVIOUS LIES?
BLAB
BLAB

MINORU ...
WILL YOU PLAY BY YOURSELF FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
STAY RIGHT THERE.
OKITA
I NEED TO GO TO THE STORE REAL QUICK.
OGAY.
OH, IT'S YOU.
SHUK SHUK
WHERE'S YOUR MOMMY?
YOU'RE ALONE AGAIN?
YAMA
OKITA
KRSH KRSH

WHO WOULD LEAVE SUCH A SMALL CHILD ALONE LIKE THIS?
COME ON. LET'S PLAY TO-GETHER.

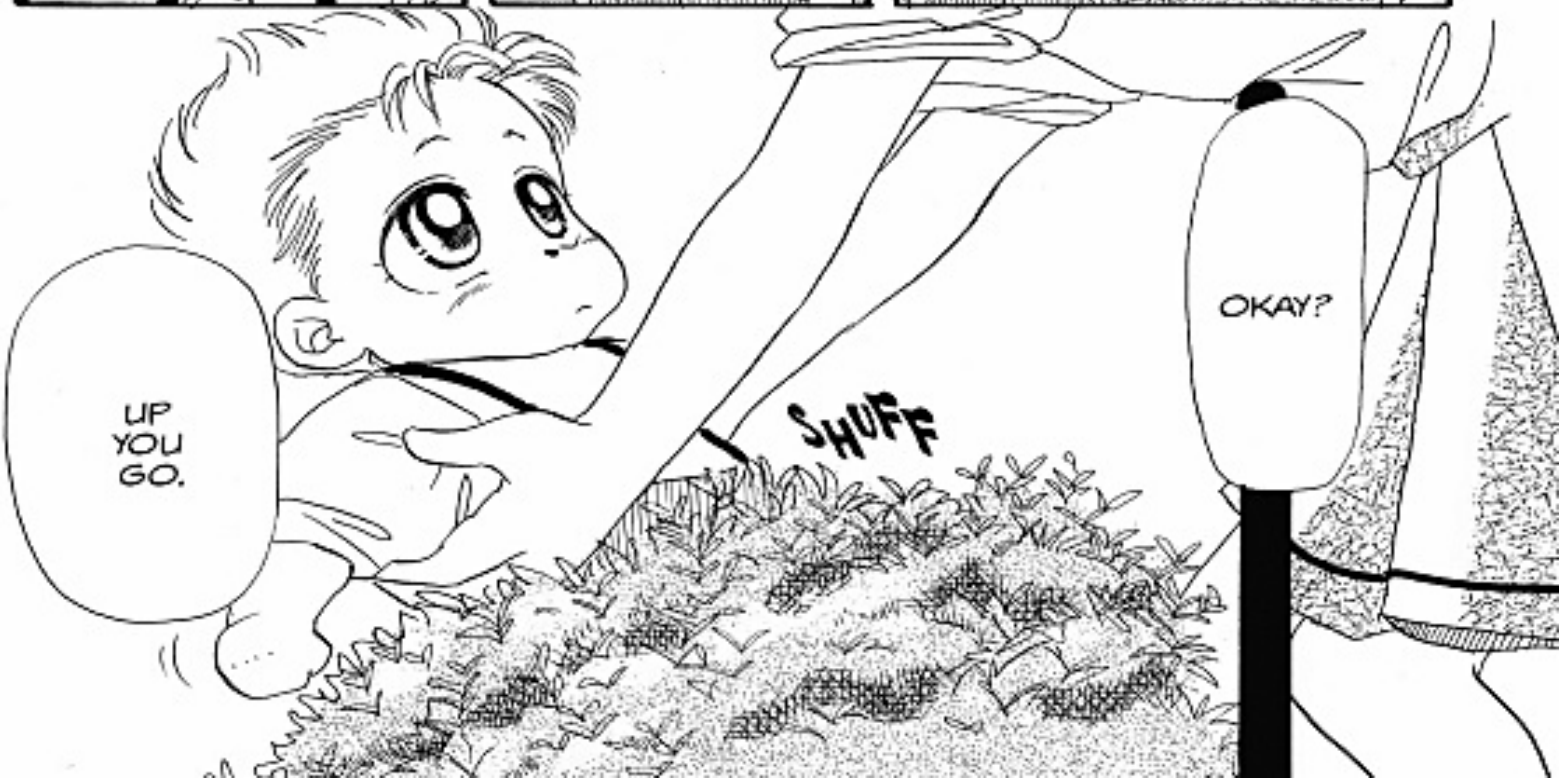
MINO-WU ...
... AWONE.

MOMMY GAWN.
SHE IS?
YOU'RE PLAYING ALL ALONE?

DON'T BE AFRAID.

UMM ...

WHAT'S WRONG ?!
I'M NOT GOING TO KIDNAP YOU.
...


OKAY?
SHUFF
UP YOU GO.

...
MINORU?
MINORU?!
WHAT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

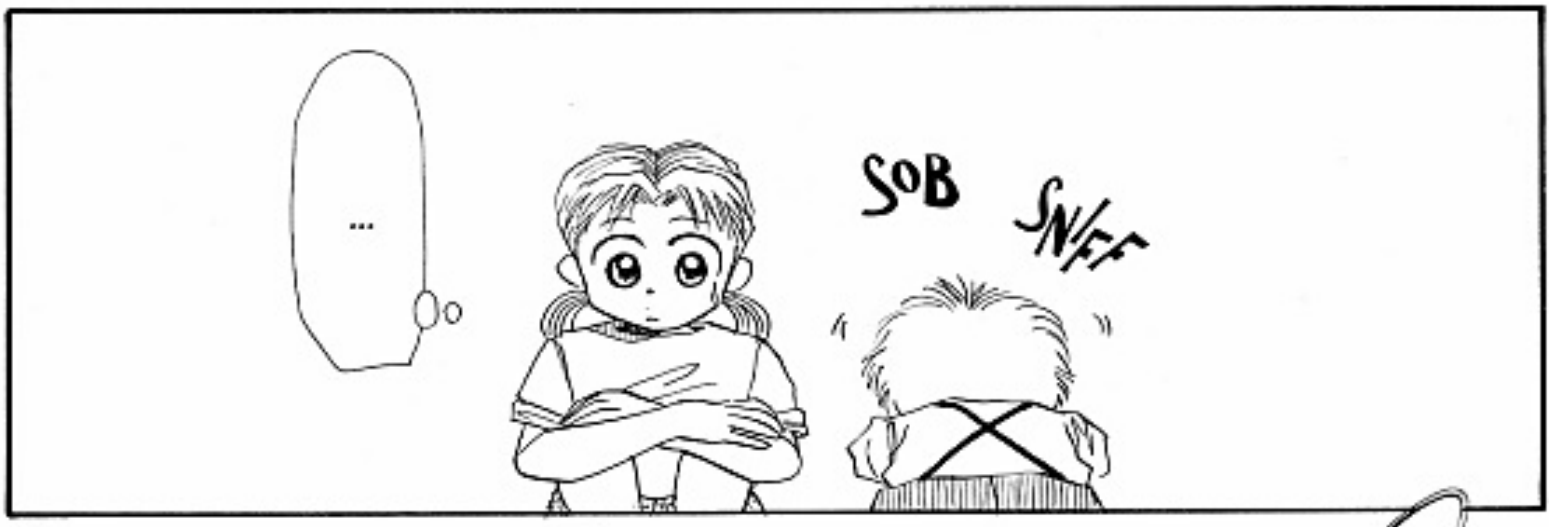
THAT LOOKS GOOD. GIVE IT A TRY.
DITH ONE?
IT'S EASIER TO DRAW WITH THE WHITE ROCKS.
SKREESH
STAY RIGHT THERE.
OH...
YEAH. THAT'S A GOOD ONE.
SKRITCH SKRITCH
...YELL.
BWAZA GONNA ...
WHAT?!

WA...
I'D BETTER CALL DAD.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHOULD I GO TO THE PO-LICE?
BWAZA!
WAAAH!!
...
ENOKI.
SOB
SOB
M-MINO ...
I'M SORRY, LITTLE BOY! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
...
WAAAH

...ENOKI.

TA-TA-AKUYA...
SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF

WHO'S YOUR BRO-THER?
MINO? THAT'S A STRANGE NAME.
SOB SOB


...
SOB
SNIFF

ENOKI SPEAKING.

OKAY.
KLIK KLAK
CHIEF, CALL FOR YOU ON LINE ONE.

WUZZ WUZZ
RING

MINORU'S ...
HUH?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TAKUYA?
DAD...
...MISSING.
...AND WHEN I CAME BACK, HE WAS GONE.
I LEFT HIM ALONE...
TAKUYA, CALM DOWN.
I ONLY LEFT HIM FOR A MINUTE.
H-HE WAS PLAYING IN THE PARK...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MISSING?

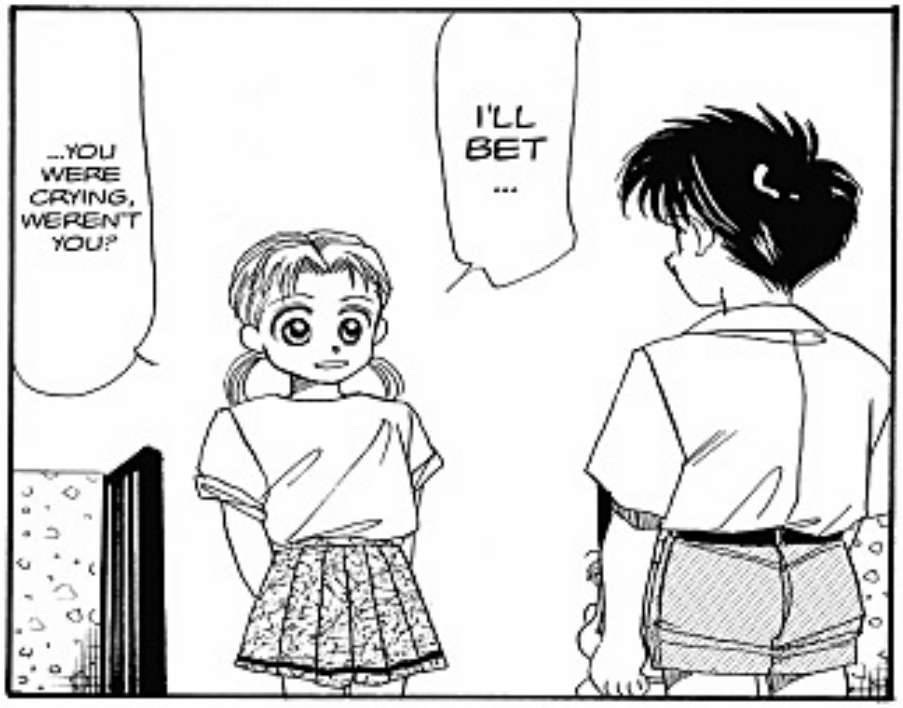
NAA...
MEANWHILE...
OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
I'M GOING BACK TO THE PARK TO LOOK FOR HIM.
...WHAT TO DO.
I JUST DON'T KNOW...
ENOKI
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHHHK
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED...
...TO MINORU?

OH...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
BWAZA ...
SO YOU TOOK HIM?
WHUP
...ALL BY HIM-SELF.
HE WAS AT THE PARK ...
WH-WHY ...
...ARE YOU...?

I WAS JUST IN THE STORE!
BUT YOU PROBABLY KNEW THAT!!

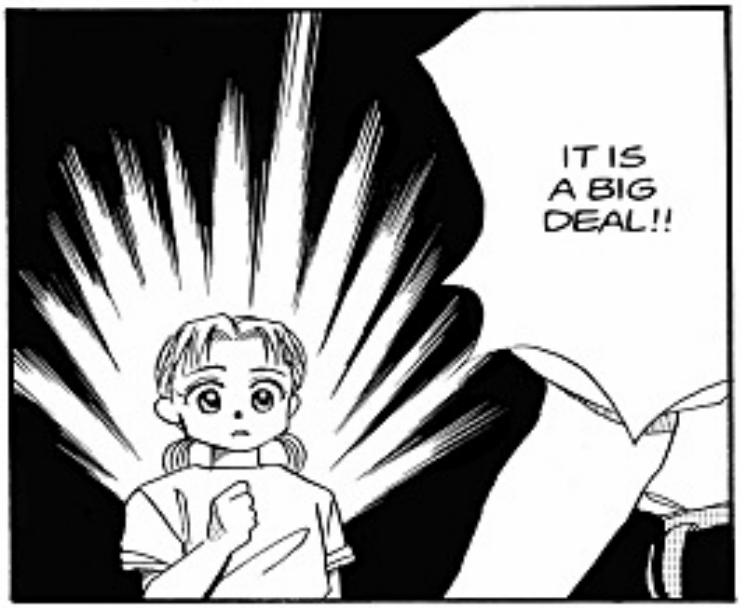
I DIDN'T KNOW.

I'D NEVER LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR LONG.
DIDN'T YOU THINK THERE MUST BE SOME-BODY WITH HIM?


...YOU WERE CRYING, WEREN'T YOU?
I'LL BET ...

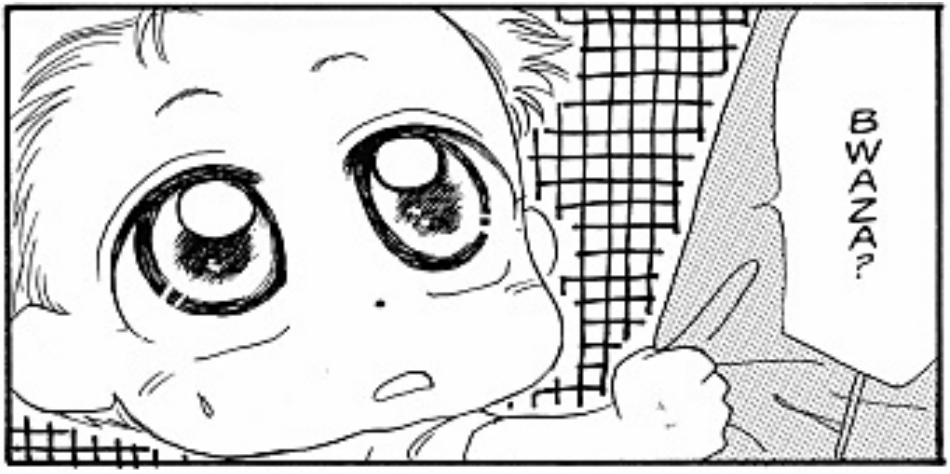
SO WHAT IF I DID KNOW?

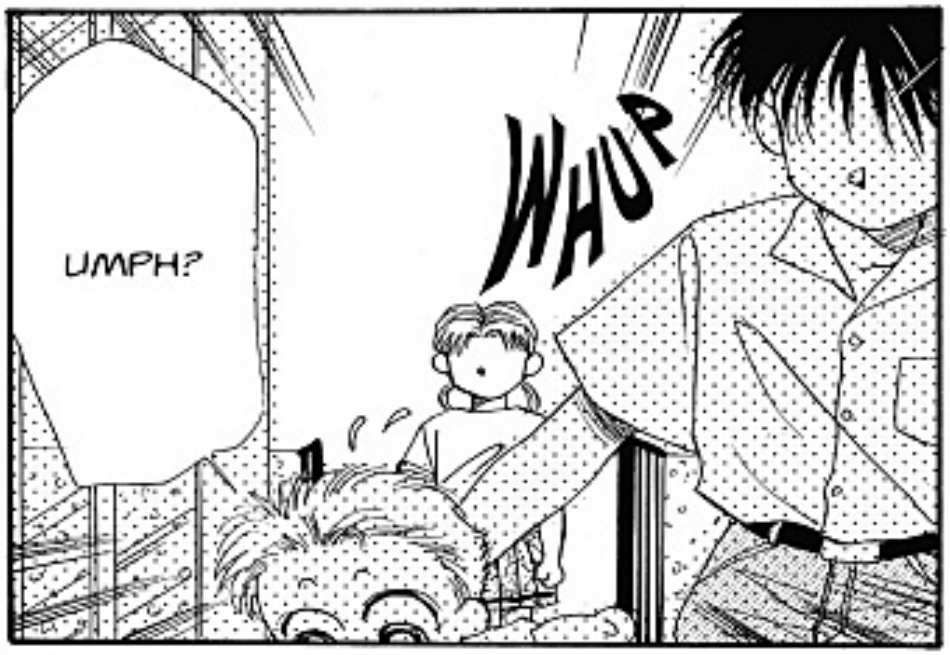
SNAP


IT IS A BIG DEAL!!

THIS IS STUPID.
WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT?

AW, WHY DON'T YOU JUST...
...KEEP LAUGHING AND LYING YOUR LIFE AWAY!!


BWAZA?

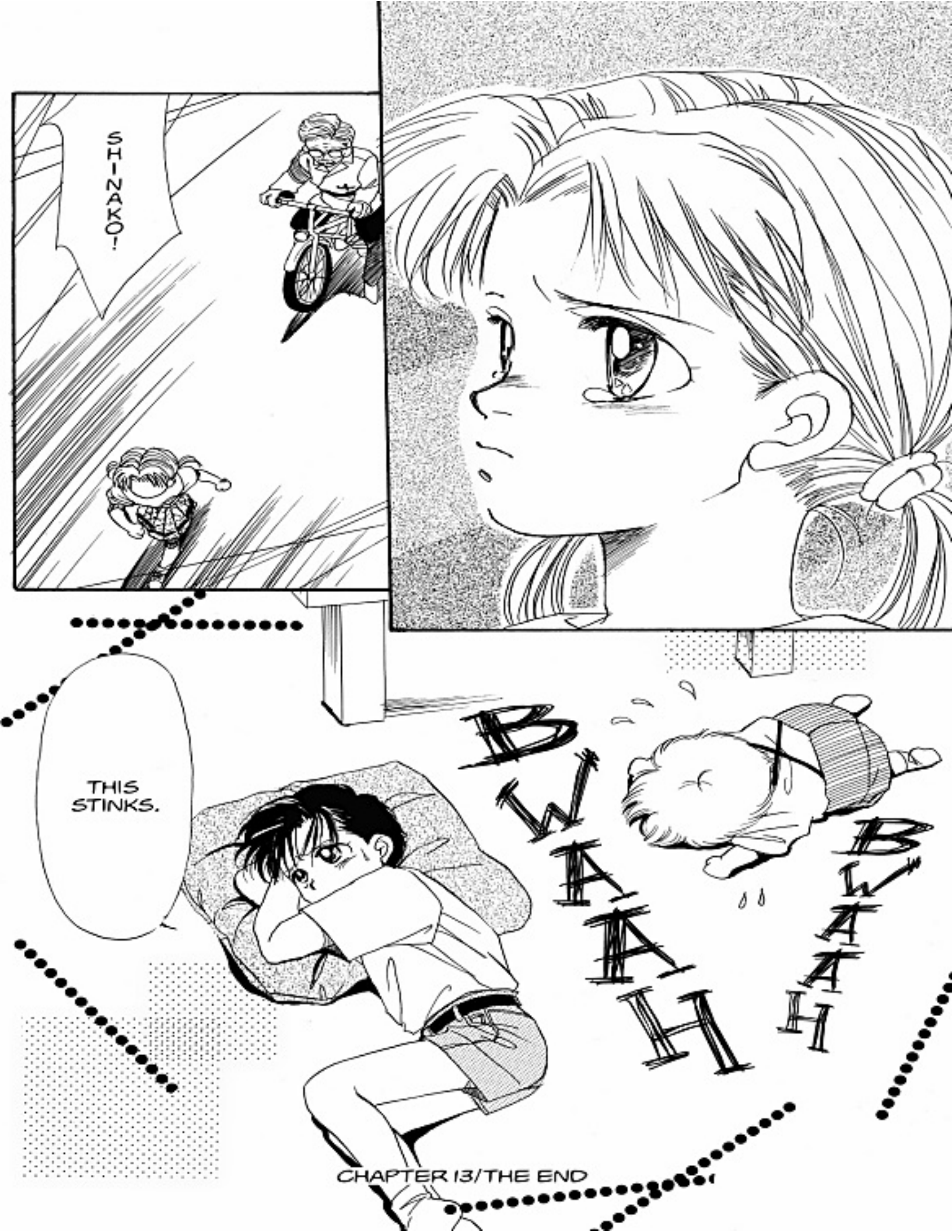

UMPH?
WHUP

?!
BWAZA...
BWAZA!

KKKAAA

...
UM... UH...
HER'S GOOD!
BWAZA, I HATE YOU.
ドタドタ
OOH...
WUP
YEAH, SO I...
...MADE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT.

!!
...
BWAAH
PWUMP
WHAT?
SHINAKO ...
...
DAD...



CHAPTER 13/THE END

BABY & Me

CHAPTER 14

YOU FOUND HIM?
HUFF
HUFF
MINORU...
OH.
HUH?!
SOB
SOB
DADDY...
WHILE I WAS WORRYING MYSELF SICK.
HE WAS PLAYING WITH A GIRL FROM MY CLASS.

DON'T CRY. DON'T CRY.
DID TAKUYA YELL AT YOU?
SOB
SOB
DADDY ...
I LOVE YOU, MINORU!
WHUP
WELL ...
REALLY?
I DON'T KNOW!
GOO ...
WHY?
THOOM
NO!
HE'S JUST CRYING ON HIS OWN.
UM...
TUG
UM...
TUG
KLAK
...

GRAAH!
HA HA HA! I'M A GOOD GIRL.
GIRL
SKRUFF
SKRUFF
HMPH! STUPID MINORU.
TAKUYA, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY.
JUICE 100% APPLE
BWAZA YELL...
HER DWAW WIFF WOCK-- SKWUFF SKWUFF! HER'S GOOD GIRL!
"I'LL BET YOU WERE CRYING, WEREN'T YOU?"
...MINORU...
...WOULDN'T LIKE HER.
GLUB GLUB
APPL
IF SHINAKO...
...WERE REALLY SUCH A BAD PERSON...

...
FORGET IT...
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE TO TALK TO HER OR ANYTHING.
HOW STUPID!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
GRR...
SCAT
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
TODAY, YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DRAW ONE OF YOUR CLASS-MATES.
WHAT?!
I WANT YOU TO PAIR OFF AND DRAW EACH OTHER.
WUZZ
WHAT?!
WHY DON'T YOU THREE TEAM UP.
DON'T YOU HAVE A PARTNER?
SHINAKO...

WILL YOU DRAW WITH SHINAKO?
HUH?
ENOKI.
LET ME SEE...

THERE'S AN EXTRA BOY. YOU DON'T MIND DRAWING WITH A BOY, DO YOU?
WELL, UM...
PAT PAT

...
FRESH OUT OF COLLEGE, NOT TOO SURE OF HIMSELF.

SHINAKO ...
!!

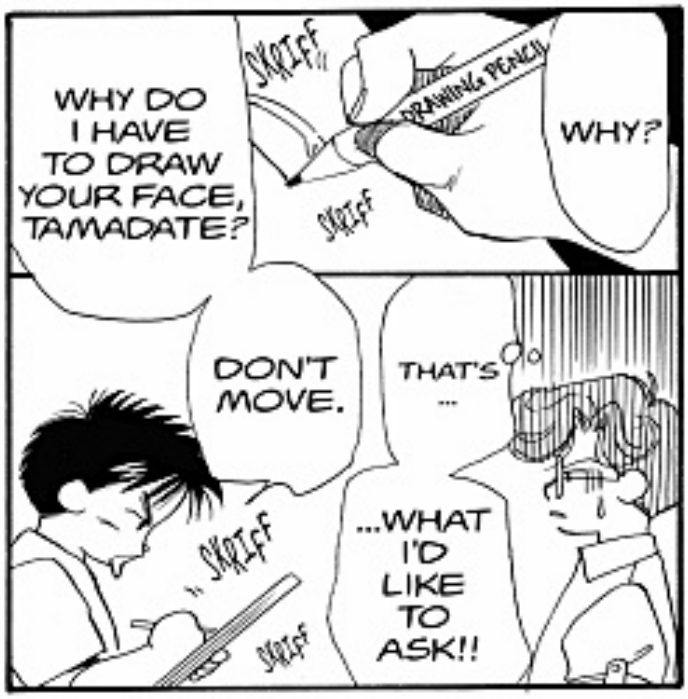
OH, BUT...

I HAVE A MIRROR ...
YES?
...I CAN JUST DRAW MYSELF.

TUG
BUT...
TEACHER!!

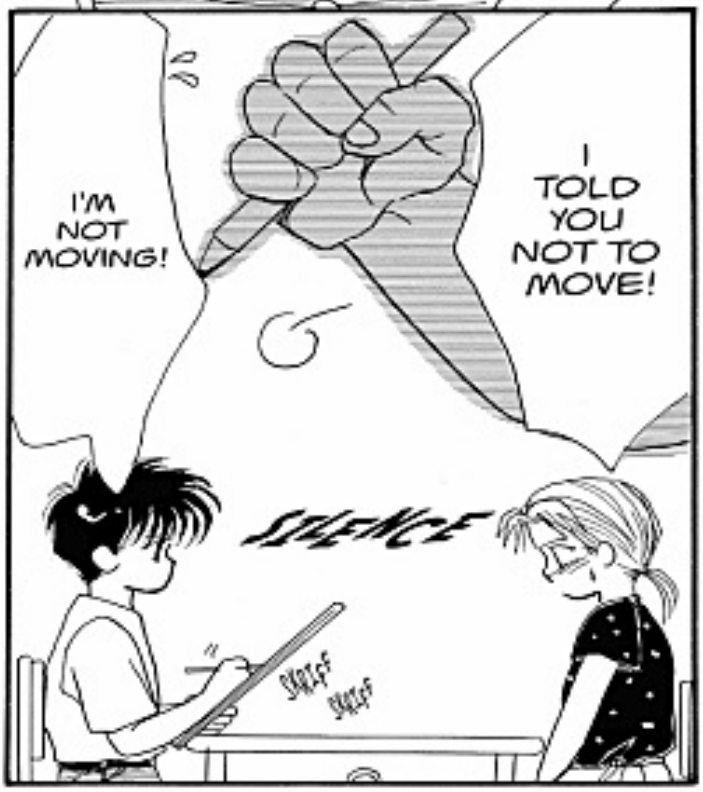
SEE? TAKUYA SAYS IT'S ALL RIGHT.
HE'S MAD AT ME.

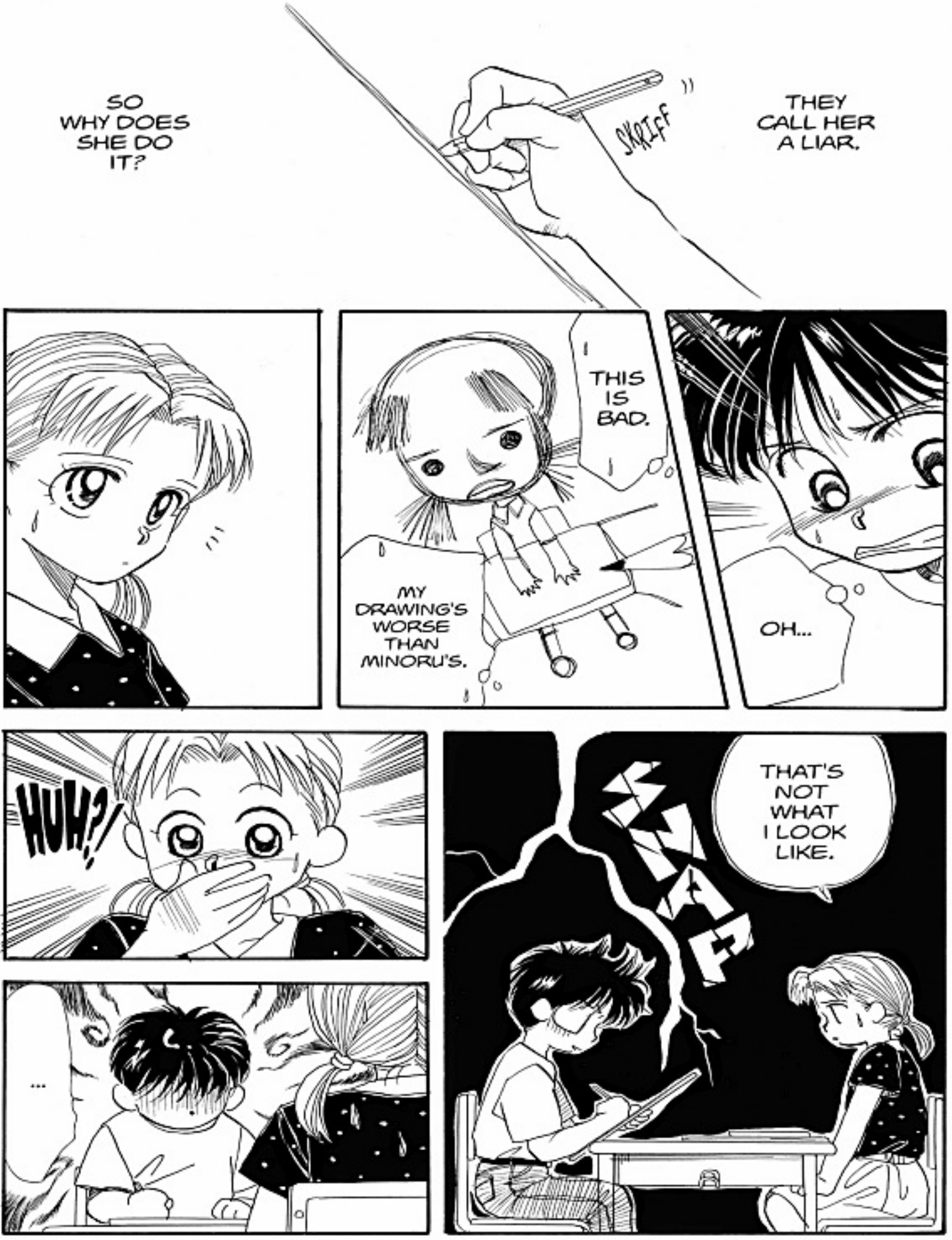
IT'S OKAY.
LET'S WORK TOGETHER.


WHY DO I HAVE TO DRAW YOUR FACE, TAMADATE?
SKRIFF
DRAWING PENCIL
SKRIFF
WHY?
DON'T MOVE.
SKRIFF
SKRIFF
THAT'S ...
...WHAT I'D LIKE TO ASK!!

I WONDER WHY...
...SHINAKO LIES TO EVERYBODY.

...
SKRIFF


I'M NOT MOVING!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE!
SILENCE
SKRIFF
SKRIFF

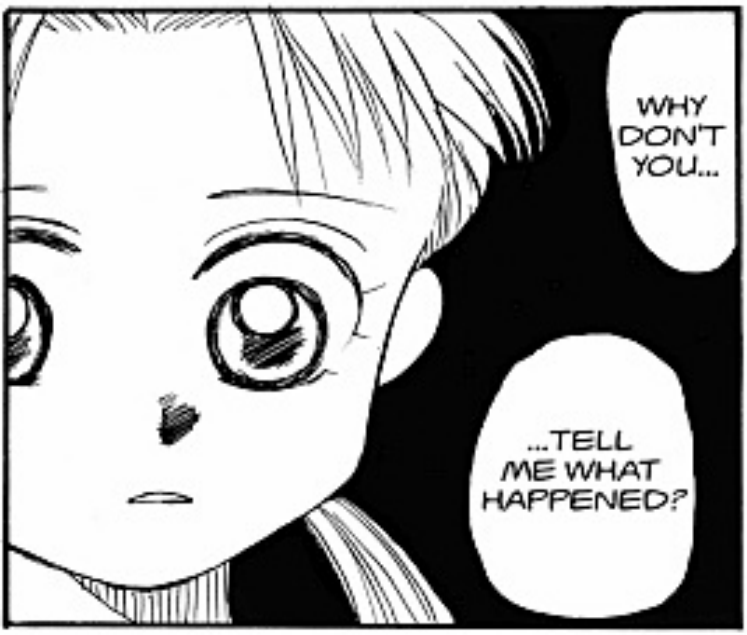

SO WHY DOES SHE DO IT?
SKRIFF
THEY CALL HER A LIAR.
THIS IS BAD.
MY DRAWING'S WORSE THAN MINORU'S.
OH...
HUH?!
...
SNAP
THAT'S NOT WHAT I LOOK LIKE.

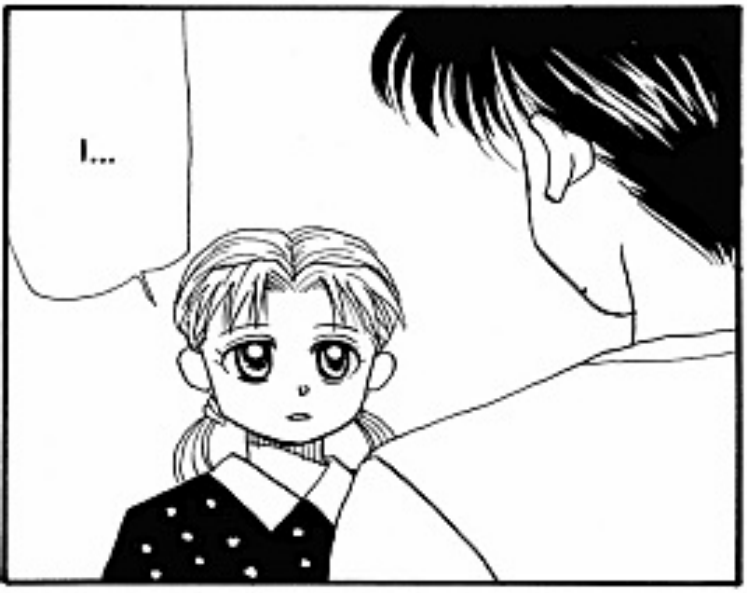
...
SKRIFF SKRIFF
...
IT'S BEEN 20 MINUTES.
SMILE
YOU DRAW ME NOW.
WHAT?
TAKUYA, YOUR SUBTLE BARBS DO NOT ESCAPE MY NOTICE.
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ME, RIGHT?
THOOM
...MAYBE YOU'RE UNCON-SCIOUSLY BEING MEAN TO ME.
YOU'RE MAD AT ME...
GRR

I DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY...
...BUT FOR SOME REASON MINORU IS TAKING YOUR SIDE.

ACT-UALLY ...
MINORU CRIED BECAUSE I GOT MAD AT YOU.

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME YOUR SIDE?


WHY DON'T YOU...
...TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?


I...

I...
I STILL THINK YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT...
BUT...

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
TAKUYA!
...
I AM A LIAR.
BY TAMADATE
BY GON
WHICH OF THESE IS WORSE?!
HUH ?!
HUH ?!
THOOM
THEY'RE BOTH TERRIBLE.

TIME TO GO HOME.
MINORU ...
VREEM
KUMANOI CITY SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO. 2
...
HE'S STILL MAD?
WHERE'S HE GET THAT FROM?
YOU
PIT-PAT PIT-PAT PIT-PAT
...
TWITCH
YOU WANNA GET A CAKE ON THE WAY HOME?
MI-NORU ...

Author's note 4

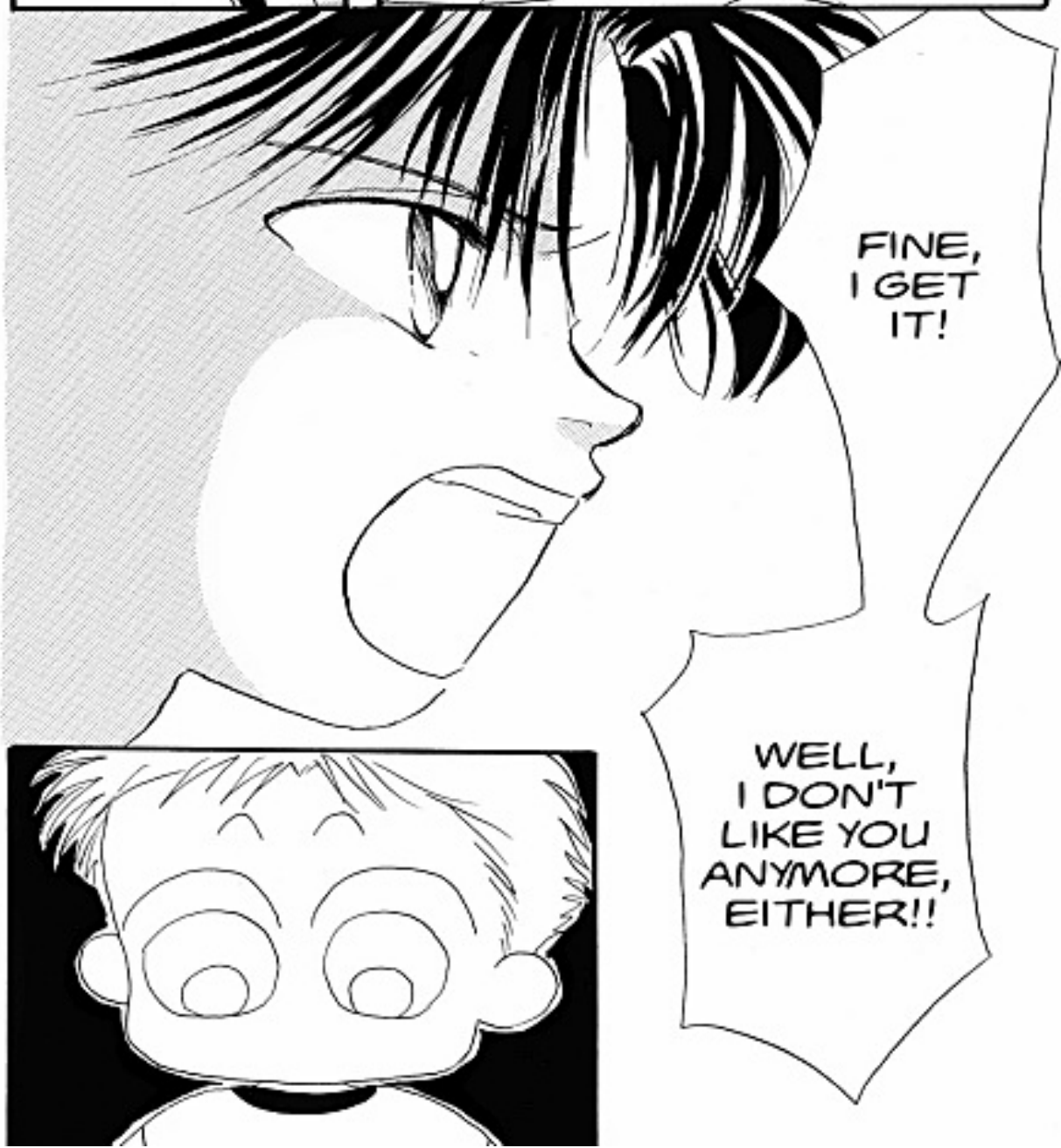
About My Little Brother

My kid brother is so tall that he's had to pay adult prices for tickets since grade school, and he's been mistaken for a college student since he was in junior high. But mentally, he's still a kid.

He's weird because he sometimes does funny things. One day when he was in high school, he was sitting at home doing nothing, so I yelled at him, "Why haven't you left for school? You're going to be late!" He yelled back at me, "I've been suspended from school." I had no idea that this had happened. His whole life takes place outside my radar.

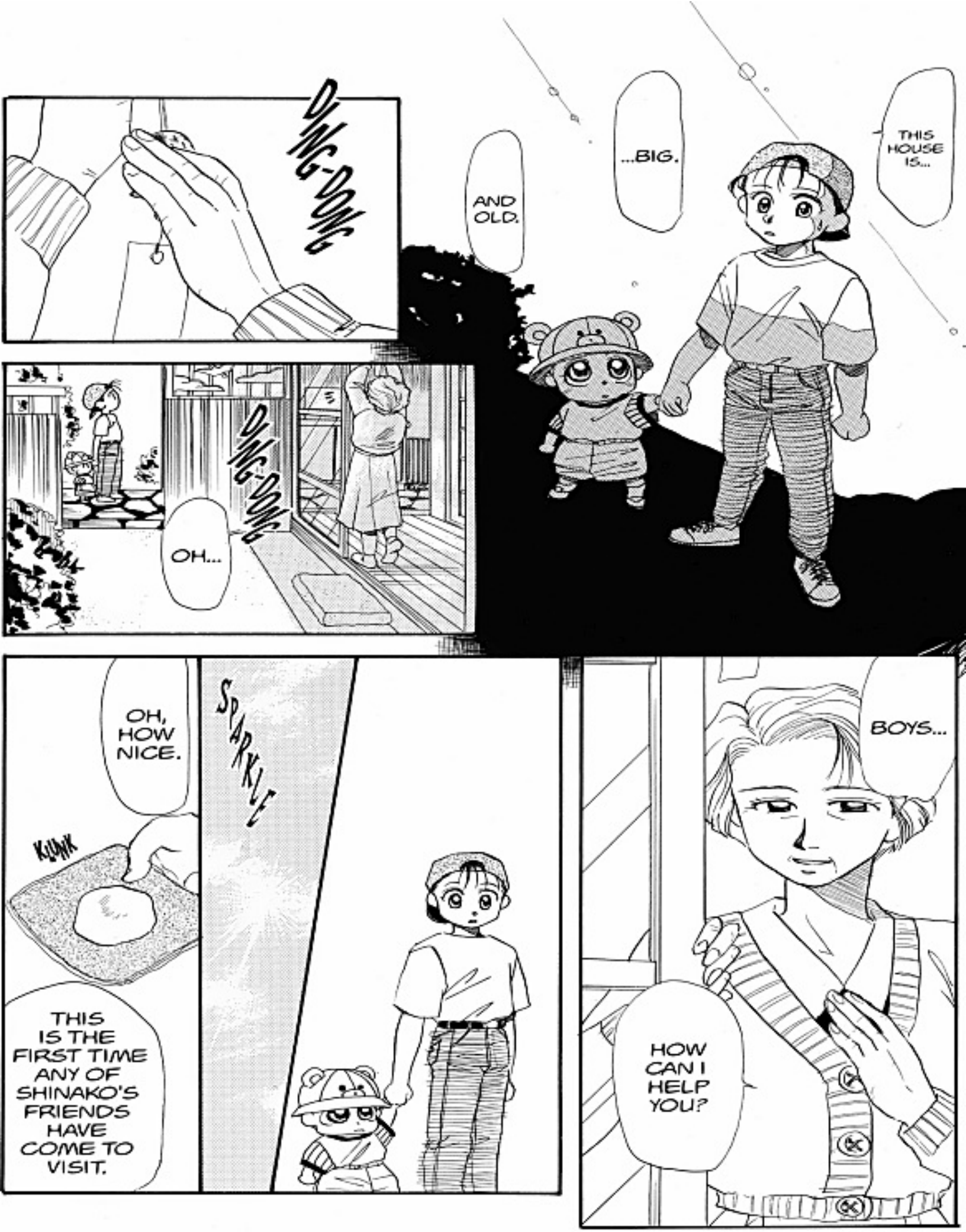
My brother works nights as a security guard. Once he lost his way in Shinjuku and a guy tried to pick him up.

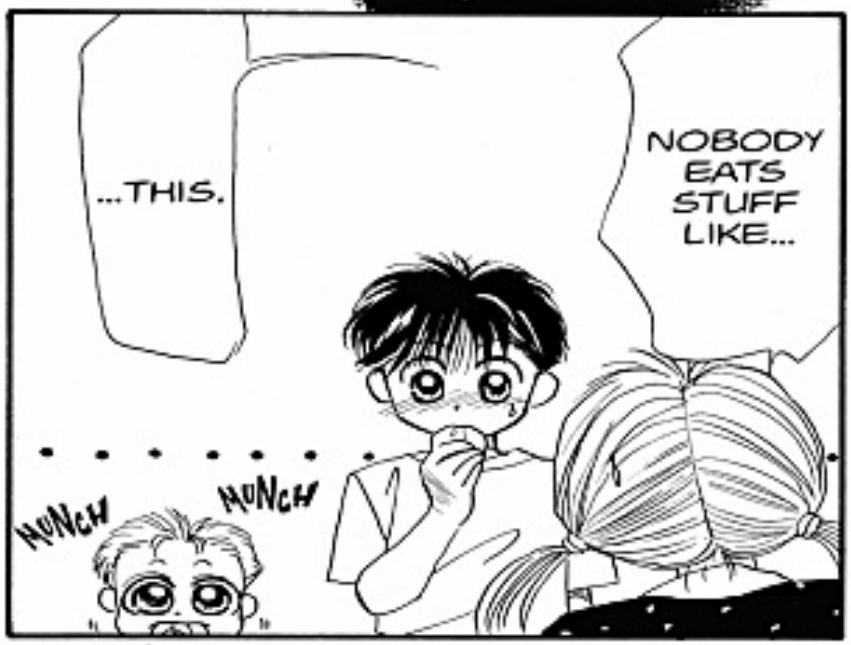
The guy who tried to pick him up was well dressed and looked like a nightclub host. He walked off when he realized my brother was straight, but my brother was approached by four men that night.

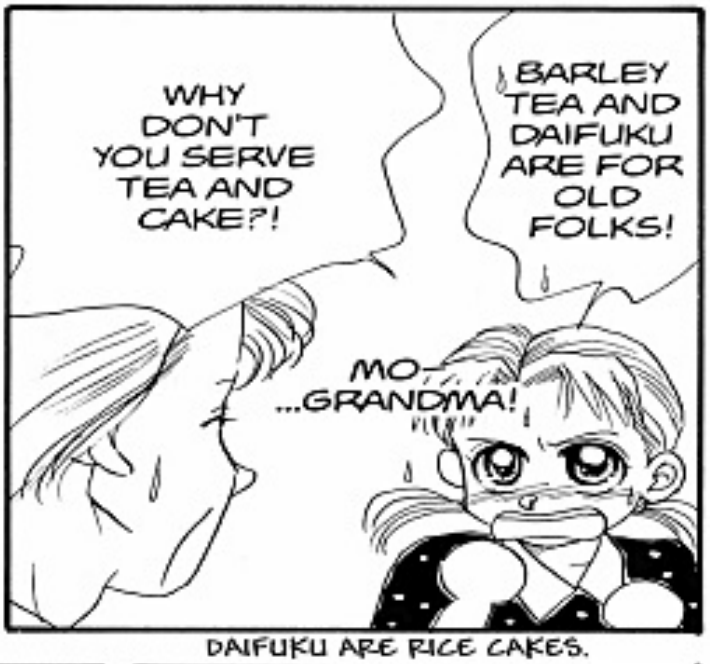


SCARY...

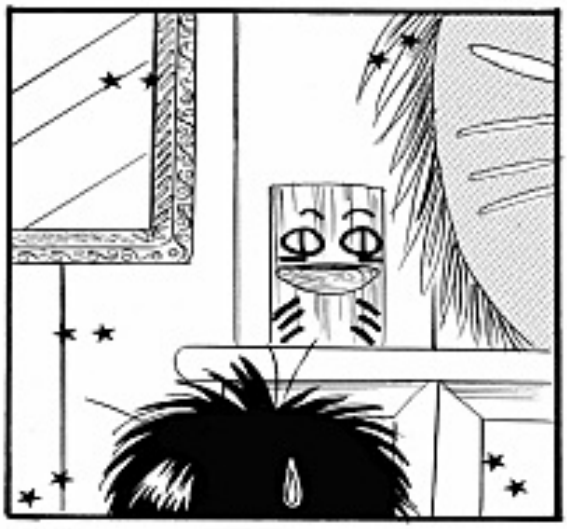
WHY...
GEEZ...
YIKES!
...DOES HE DO STUFF LIKE THIS?!
PLUP
OKAY...
I UNDERSTAND.
FUKAYA
STUDENT DIRECTORY

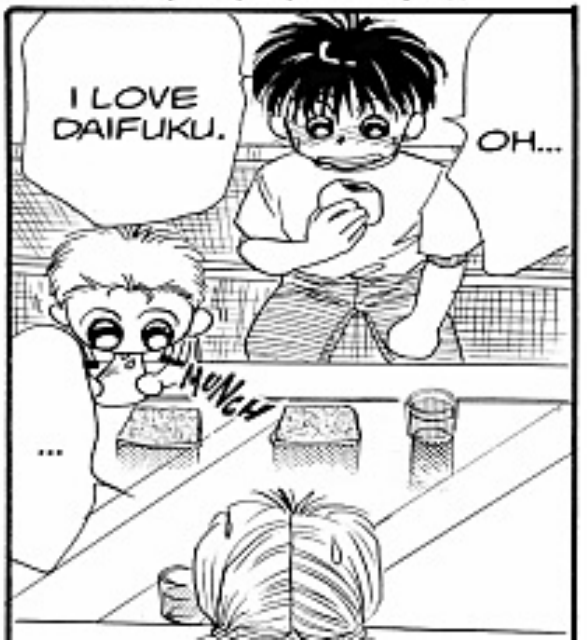

DING-DONG
THIS HOUSE IS...
...BIG.
AND OLD.
DING-DONG
OH...
OH, HOW NICE.
KLUNK
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANY OF SHINAKO'S FRIENDS HAVE COME TO VISIT.
SPARKLE
BOYS...
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?





DAIFUKU ARE RICE CAKES.





DANGLE
...A LOT OF WEIRD STUFF.
THERE SURE IS...
Pachypodium baronii
GOO...
...MY MOTHER, BACK IN HER PERFORMING DAYS.
THAT'S ...
!!
HUH?
SHINAKO, WHO'S THAT?

THEN IT...

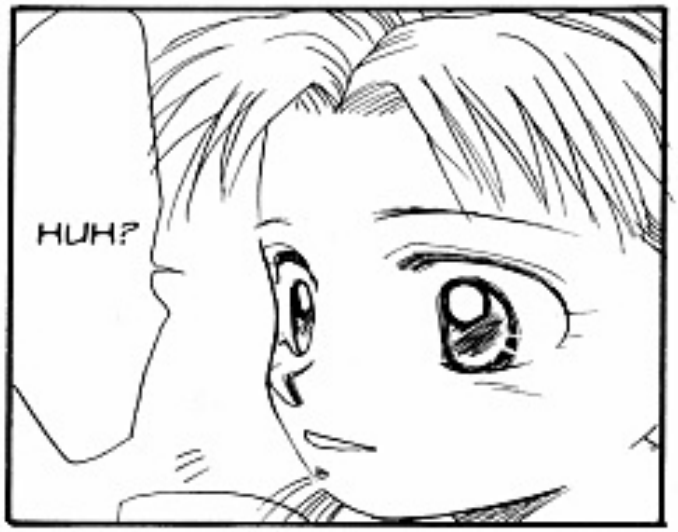
HUH? YEAH.
REALLY? YOU THINK SO?
GLUG
GLUG

SHE'S BEAU-TIFUL.

OH!

I'M SORRY.
...WAS TRUE...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A LIAR.
I SAID SOME MEAN THINGS TO YOU.


HUH?

I ALWAYS SAY SARCASTIC THINGS.
I TRY NOT TO, BUT...
...THEY JUST COME OUT.
OH, I...
...KEEP LAUGHING AND LYING YOUR LIFE AWAY!!
AW, WHY DON'T YOU JUST...
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
...I SAID THAT.
I'M SORRY.
I TOOK MINORU WITHOUT TELLING YOU.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

YEAH.
YOU HAVE A LOT OF UNUSUAL THINGS IN YOUR HOUSE.

UM...

I'VE TOLD SO MANY LIES THAT NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME.
WHEN THE GIRLS ASKED TO SEE YOUR PRESENTS, INSTEAD OF TELLING THEM YOU GAVE THEM AWAY...
...YOU SHOULD'VE JUST TOLD THEM THE TRUTH.

MY DAD HAS LOUSY TASTE IN GIFTS. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE ALL THAT JUNK.
I CAN'T SHOW THEM TO PEOPLE.

UM...

WELL ...

...WHERE ARE YOUR MOM AND DAD?
YOU SEEM TO BE LIVING WITH YOUR GRANDPARENTS, SO...

WHAT'S...
HOW COULD YOU TURN ON US LIKE THIS?!
...TAKUYA DOING WITH HER?!
AAAH!
TAKUYA AND SHINAKO?!
ACT-UALLY...
UH-OH... NOT AGAIN...
TAKUYA
YOU DON'T OWN TAKUYA!!
AAAAH!!
SHWOO
UMPH
WOOOO
AAAH
AAAH

OW, I GOT DUST IN MY EYE.
MINORU?

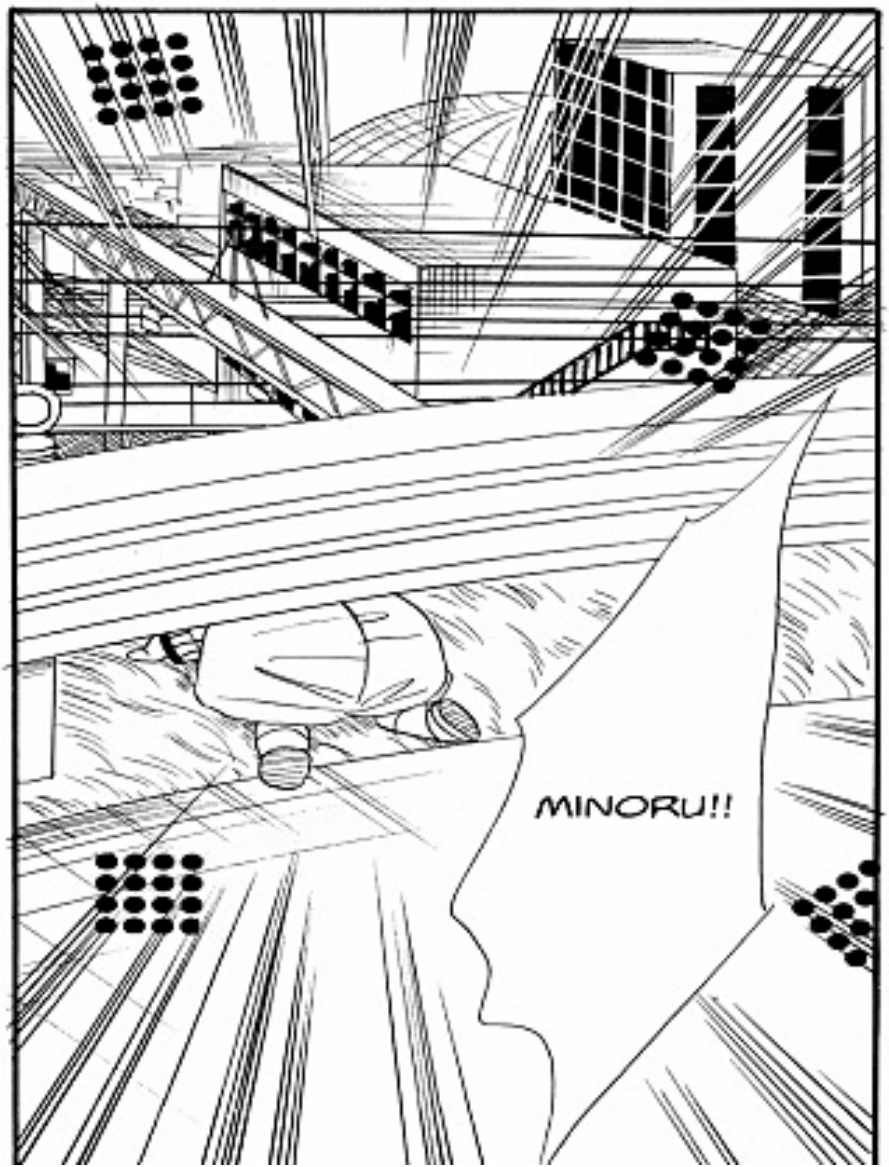
TUP
THAT'S NOT MY FAULT!!
SEE? EVEN THE WIND IS MAD AT YOU!!
MY BEH!
TUP
AAAH
AAAH

WOOO

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

BWAZA?

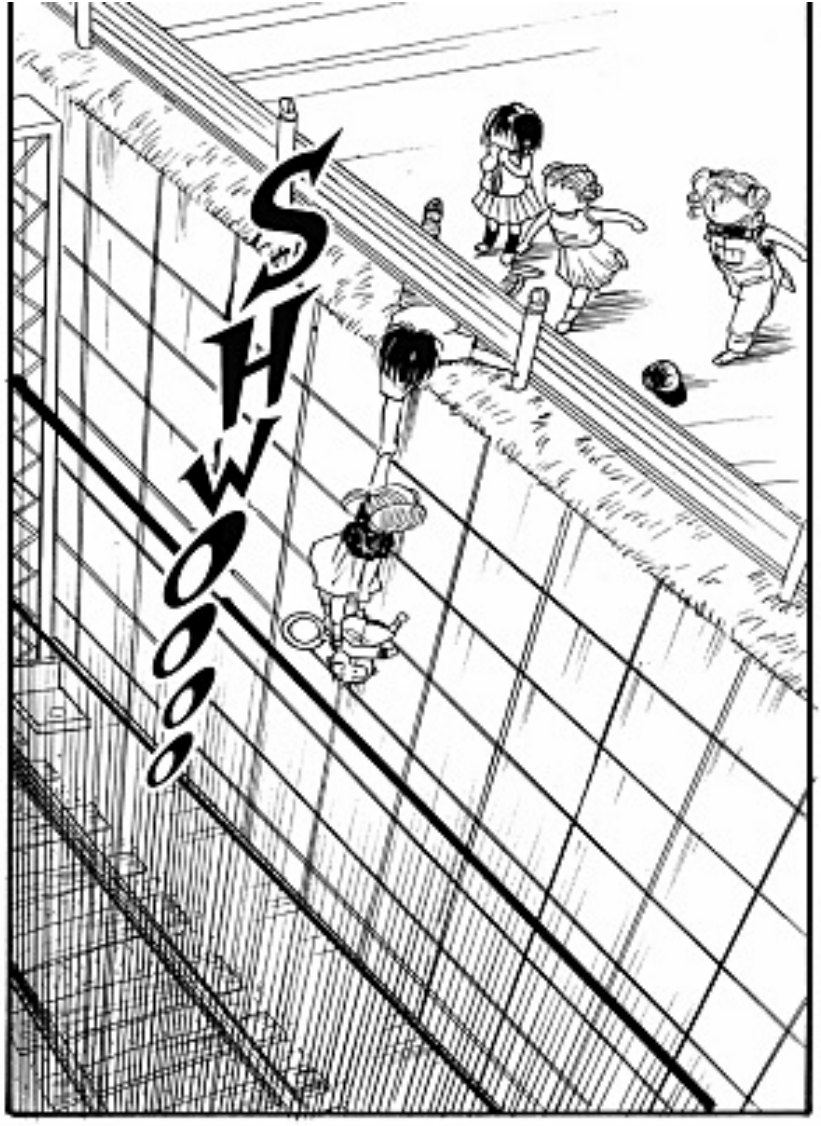
SWP


MINORU!!

TUG
MINORU!
SWUP
AAAH!
EEK!
KRK
SWUP
!!

UGH...
KRK

T-TAKUYA! WE'LL GET HELP! HOLD ON!!
TMP
TMP


SHWOOOO

IF I WEREN'T HOLDING MINORU, YOU'D LET GO, WOULDN'T YOU?!

SHINAKO, PLEASE...
HOLD ON TO MINORU.
WAAAH
OW!

CAN YOU PULL THEM UP?
NO! WE NEED A GROWN-UP!

BWAZA! OWEEE!!
AAAGH

...FEEL LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO TEAR!
THE MUSCLES IN MY ARM...

THIS WAY!
TAMP TAMP TAMP
HURRY! HURRY!

O-OVER THERE!

OF COURSE NOT!
NOT EVER!
OUCH...

DA...

SHI-
SHINAKO?!

WHAP

... GRAND-FATHER?
SHI-NAKO'S ...

HE WAS THE ONLY GROWN-UP AROUND.
GRR
GRR
WHY DID YOU BRING AN OLD PERSON?

PLUMP
SWUP
SWUP
RAAAAH

UP YOU GO.

DADDY...
NOW, NOW...
WAAAH
DA...
I WAS SO SCARED!
DADDY...

DADDY?!
WUZZ
GRADE 6-2
ACTU-ALLY...
WUZZ
BUT MY FATHER REALLY DID WORK FOR A TRADING COMPANY, UNTIL HE RETIRED.
I DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT MY PARENTS WERE SO OLD.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY...
...THE PEOPLE EVERYONE THINKS ARE MY GRAND-PARENTS...
...ARE REALLY MY PARENTS.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I LOOK LIKE!
STILL...
...PLAYING WITH HER NEW FRIENDS.
I SEE SHINAKO...
WHY, YOU...
I TOLD YOU TO DO IT OVER!
PFFT! I'M A MUCH BETTER ARTIST THAN YOU ARE!
TAKUYA ENOKI
SHINAKO FUKAYA
IT'S BETTER THAN YOUR PICTURE OF ME!
IN SOME WAYS, SHE'S STILL THE SAME OLD SHINAKO.
TAMADATE
MARIKO NAGAWA
TADASHI GOTO
AKIHIRO FUJII
OUCH! OUCH!
SKRUK SKRUK
CHAPTER 14/THE END

BABY & Me
CHAPTER 15

END OF FIRST TERM

I HOPE YOU'LL ALL MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS VACATION.

YOUR LONG-AWAITED SUMMER VACATION BEGINS TOMORROW.

WAKE UP AND LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.

SHAKE SHAKE

HUH...?

DAD DECIDED TO TAKE MINORU AND ME TO THE OCEAN.

KLAKETA

KLAKETA

SUM-MER VACA-TION...

WE'LL BE THERE SOON.

COME ON.

SKWIK

SKWIK

UWA...

ZZZ

KLAKETA

ZZZ

KLAKETA

ZZZ

ZZZ

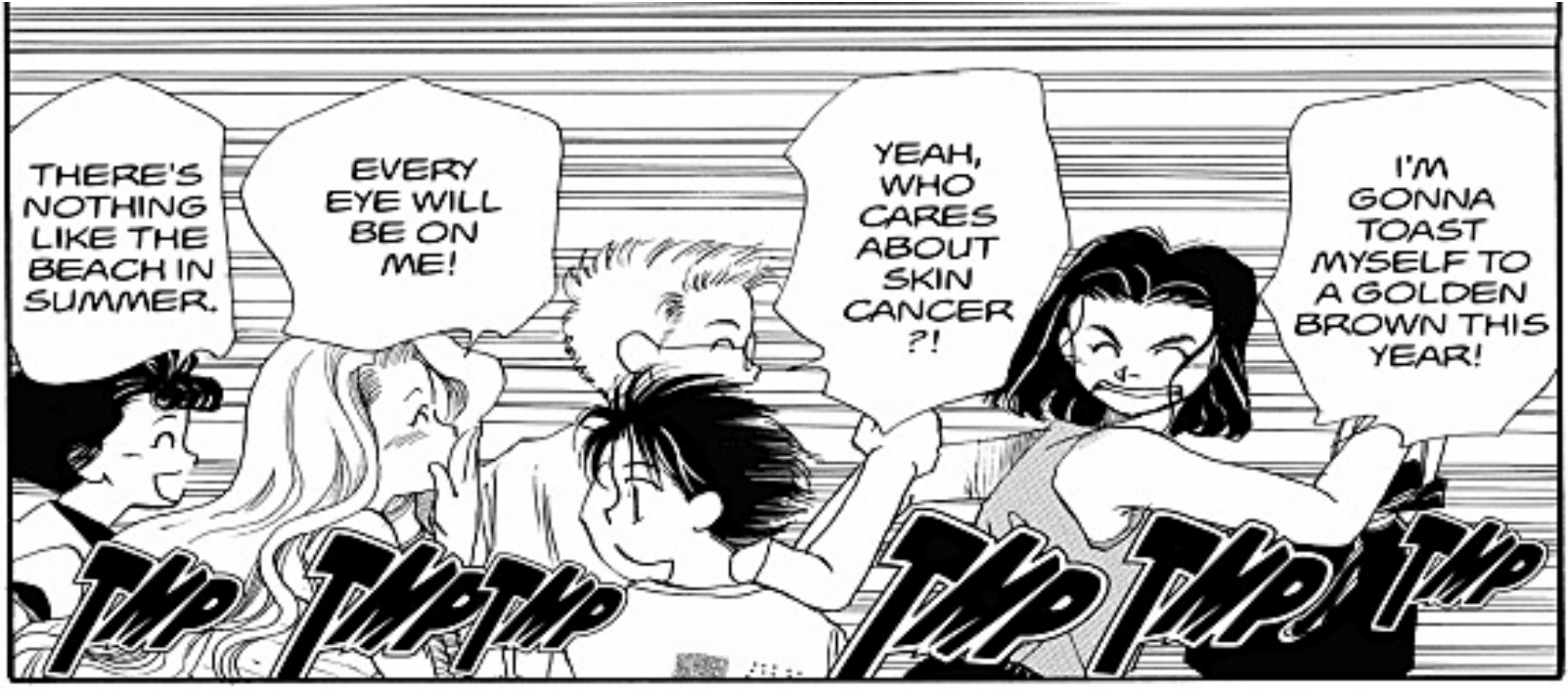
KLAKETA

TAKUYA...

MINORU...

KIDS COM

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME...
KLAKETA
OH...
...MINORU AND I HAD BEEN TO THE SEASHORE.
CRASH
KLAKETA
KLAKETA
DAD! DAD!
HURRY! LET'S HIT THE BEACH!
HUWWY!!
OH! THE OCEAN! THE OCEAN!
TMP TMP TMP TMP
EEEE!!♡
HURRY!
I'M NOT DONE PUTTING OUR THINGS AWAY!!
GOO...

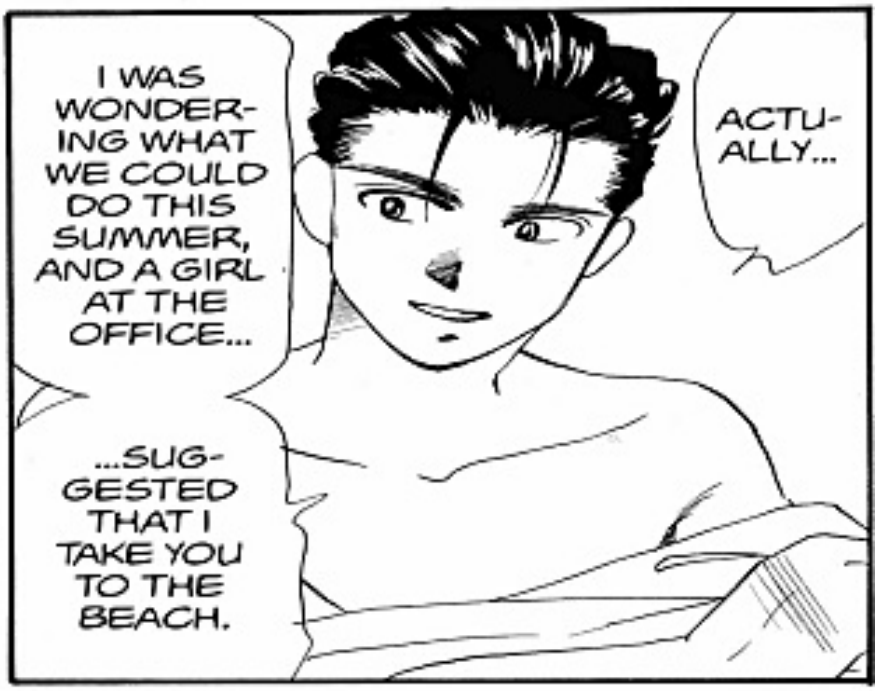

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE BEACH IN SUMMER.
EVERY EYE WILL BE ON ME!
YEAH, WHO CARES ABOUT SKIN CANCER ?!
I'M GONNA TOAST MYSELF TO A GOLDEN BROWN THIS YEAR!
THP THPTHP
THP THPTHP

RAAH
RAAH

WELL, UM...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO QUIET?
HUH?

NO RUN-NING, PLEASE.
THP THP THP THP
HUH...?
...

OH.
I GUESS SHE WAS PLANNING TO GO TO THE BEACH, TOO.
ICE
PEOOO
UGH...


I WAS WONDER-ING WHAT WE COULD DO THIS SUMMER, AND A GIRL AT THE OFFICE...
ACTU-ALLY...
...SUG-GESTED THAT I TAKE YOU TO THE BEACH.

OH!
?

IT'S THAT NOISY BUNCH FROM THE INN.
OOO

LET'S RENT A PARASOL.
THERE'S ROOM OVER THERE!
OUCH! THE SAND'S SO HOT!
SHFF YACK
YACK SHFF

OH!

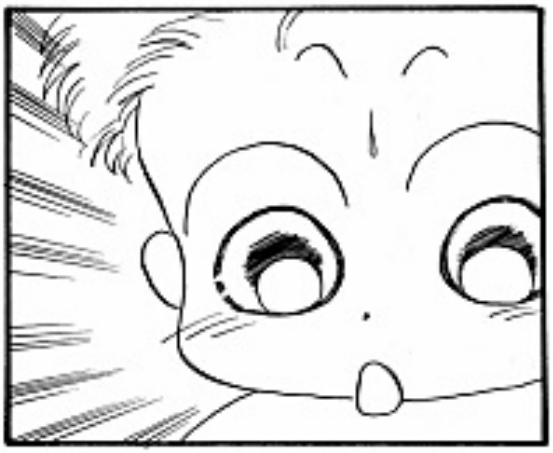
ARE THESE YOUR KIDS, CHIEF?
THEY'RE CUTE.
SHEESH! I HAVE TO SPEND THIS VACATION LOOKING AT THEIR FACES?!

US?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?!
CHIEF?!
SLIM
WILD PRINT

CHIEF ENOKI, DON'T YOU THINK THIS MEANS THAT WE'RE FATED TO BE TOGETHER?
NOT REALLY, MS. OMORI. PLEASE DON'T COME TOO CLOSE.
TWITCH
IT'S DESTINY!
DAD
...
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, EDOMAE!
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
HOW COULD YOU, CHIEF! YOU KNEW I LIKED MS. OMORI, BUT YOU FOLLOWED HER HERE ANYWAY!
BYE-BYE!
WE WILL.
OKAY, BUT BE CARE-FUL.
DAD ...
MINORU AND I ARE GOING TO PLAY.

SWOOSH
...

DAD'S GOT IT ROUGH.
KACK
SHFF
SHFF
KACK

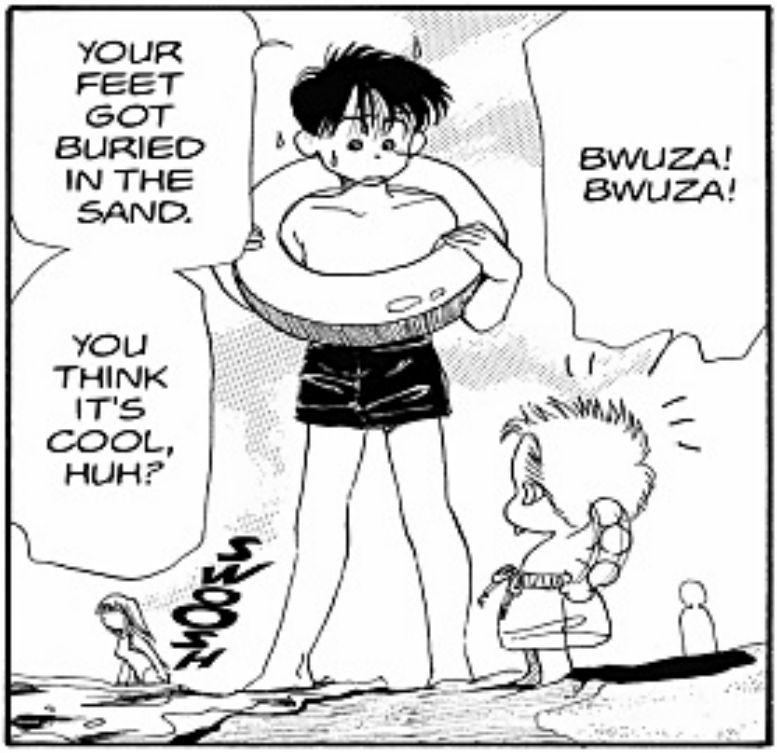


SWOOSH

GASP
SPLASH

KROOOM

BWUZA!
FULL SPEED AHEAD!
SPLASH
SPLASH

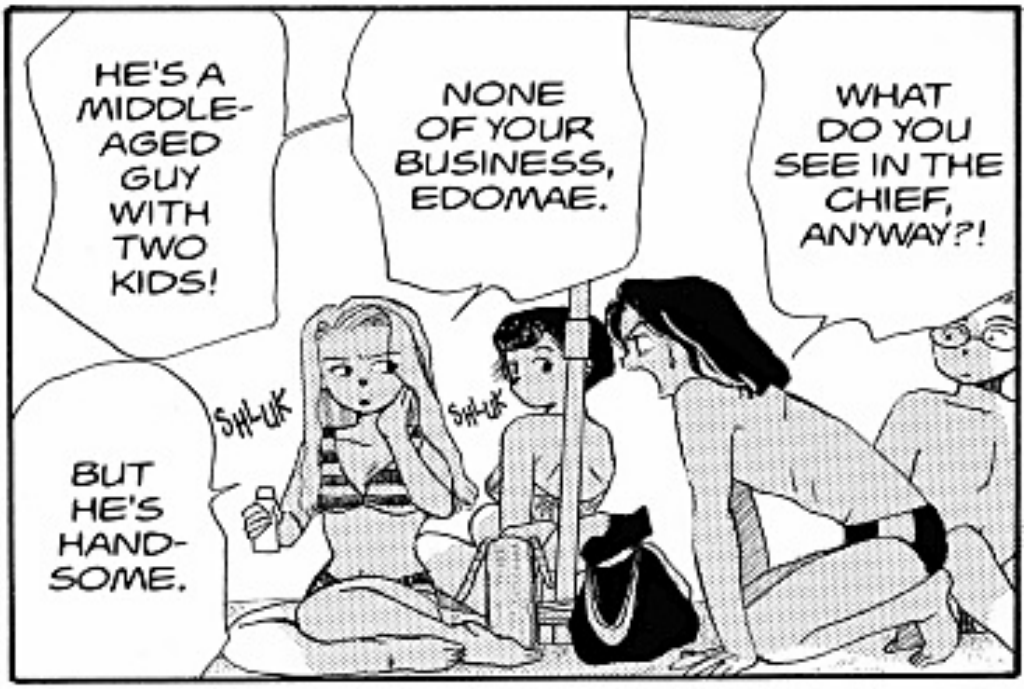

YOUR FEET GOT BURIED IN THE SAND.
YOU THINK IT'S COOL, HUH?
SWOOSH
BWUZA! BWUZA!

WOW WHAT ?
WOW ...

OMORI...

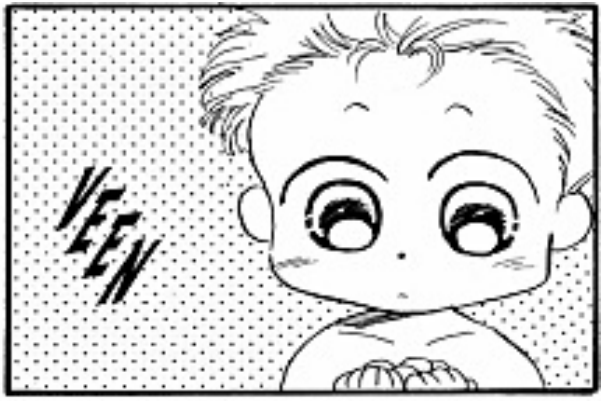
SWOOSH
BWUZA?
WHOA! WHOA!
SKRSHHH

FINE! I'M JUST GONNA GET A GOLDEN TAN AND TURN MYSELF INTO A GOD OF SUMMER!
WE'RE GOING FOR A SWIM.
SHFF SHFF

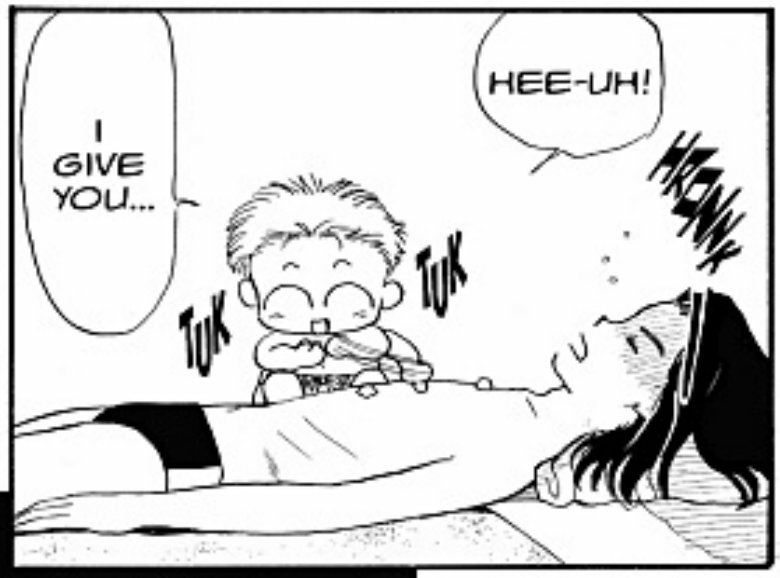

HE'S A MIDDLE-AGED GUY WITH TWO KIDS!
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, EDOMAE.
WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE CHIEF, ANYWAY?!
BUT HE'S HAND-SOME.
SHLUK
SHLUK

YAMAGUCHI...
SOME FRIEND YOU ARE!
IT'S TRUE, THE CHIEF'S A GOOD-LOOKING GUY.

I'M HUNGRY. I WANT SOME FRIED NOODLES.
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
DAD...?
HEH...
YOU WANT TO GIVE ME A SEA-SHELL?
SUUUK
THANK YOU, MI-NORU.
CAN I HAVE SOME KON-NYAKU**?
I WANT SOME ODEN.*
WHY DON'T YOU GO AND BUY US SOME-THING?
BOILED EGG?!
**POTATO JELLY, IN ODEN. *A TYPE OF SOUP
MINORU, WHY DON'T YOU PUT THOSE SHELLS SOME-WHERE?
HUH?
OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CARRY YOUR FOOD.
HUH?
HEE-UH.

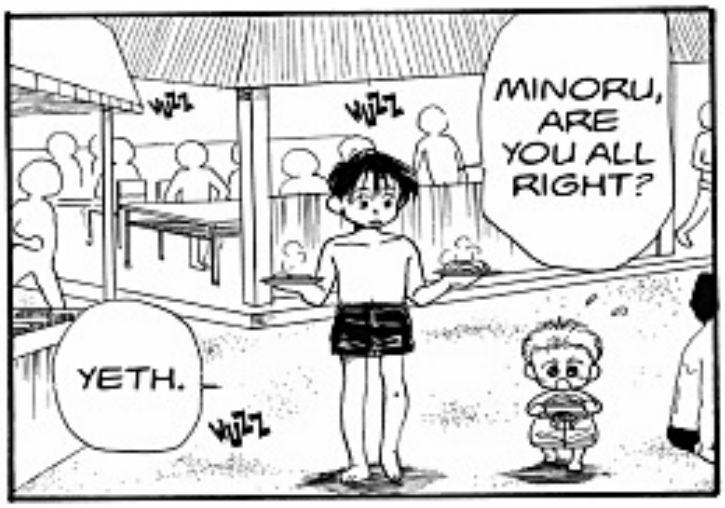


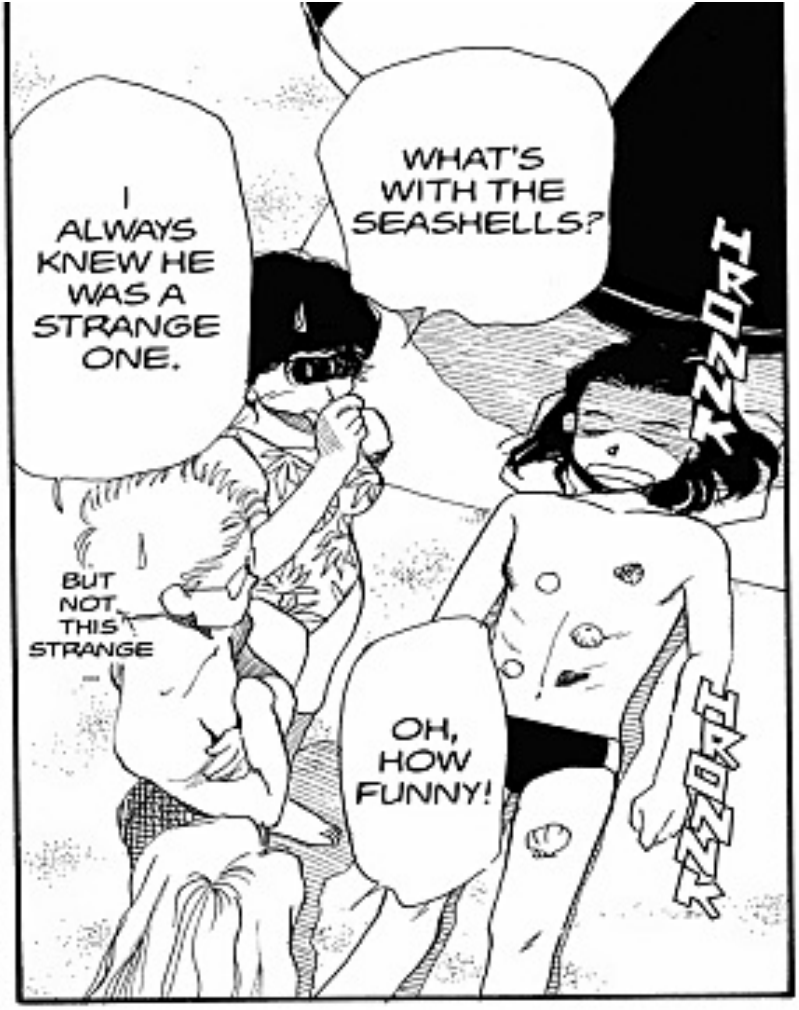
LOOKS SCARY.



EDOMAE'S SO WEIRD.

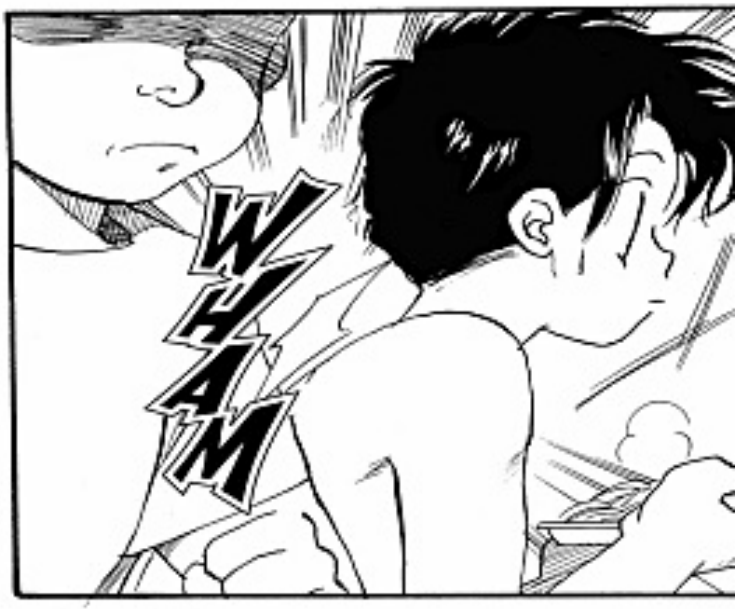
SSS
SSS

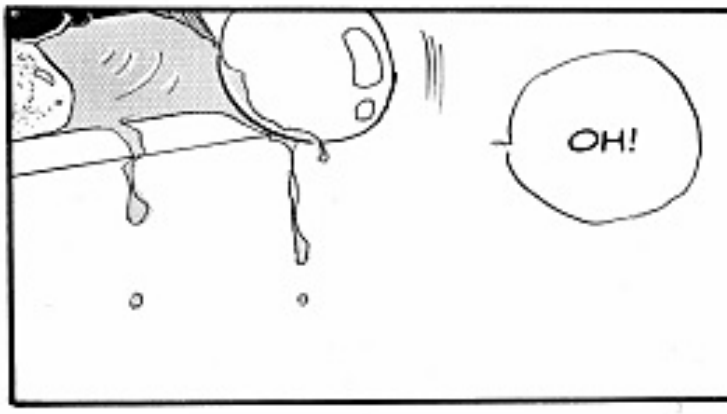

MINORU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YETH.


WHAT'S WITH THE SEASHELLS?
I ALWAYS KNEW HE WAS A STRANGE ONE.
BUT NOT THIS STRANGE
OH, HOW FUNNY!
IRONZZZ
IRONZZZ

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!!
HUH?!

...
MY EGG...
AAH!
PLOP


WHAM


OH!

PLOP
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE SAID.
HE SPOKE SO FAST, I COULDN'T UNDER-STAND HIM.
MUST BE ONE OF THE LOCAL PUNKS.
MY EGG...
WAAH
WH-WHAT?
DAD
THIS IS GREAT.
THE FOOD IS DELICIOUS. ♡
SPLASH
HUH? HE DIDN'T DO IT ON PUR-POSE?
I LOOK SICK!
WHO DID THIS TO ME?!

YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING SO HARD FOR MINORU AND ME...
...SO I WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOURSELF TOO.
SLURP
...
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT, DAD.
SPLOOSH
MUNCH MUNCH
?
TINK
WHAT A GOOD KID.
ISN'T THE SASHIMI GOOD?
HEH HEH...
BUT WE WERE TOLD TO BRING THIS HERE BY THE GUESTS IN THE PLUM AND COSMOS ROOMS.
OH, WE ALREADY HAVE OUR DINNER.
KLAK
WH-WHAT?
KLAK KLAK
PAR-DON ME.
KLAK
KNOCK KNOCK
YES?

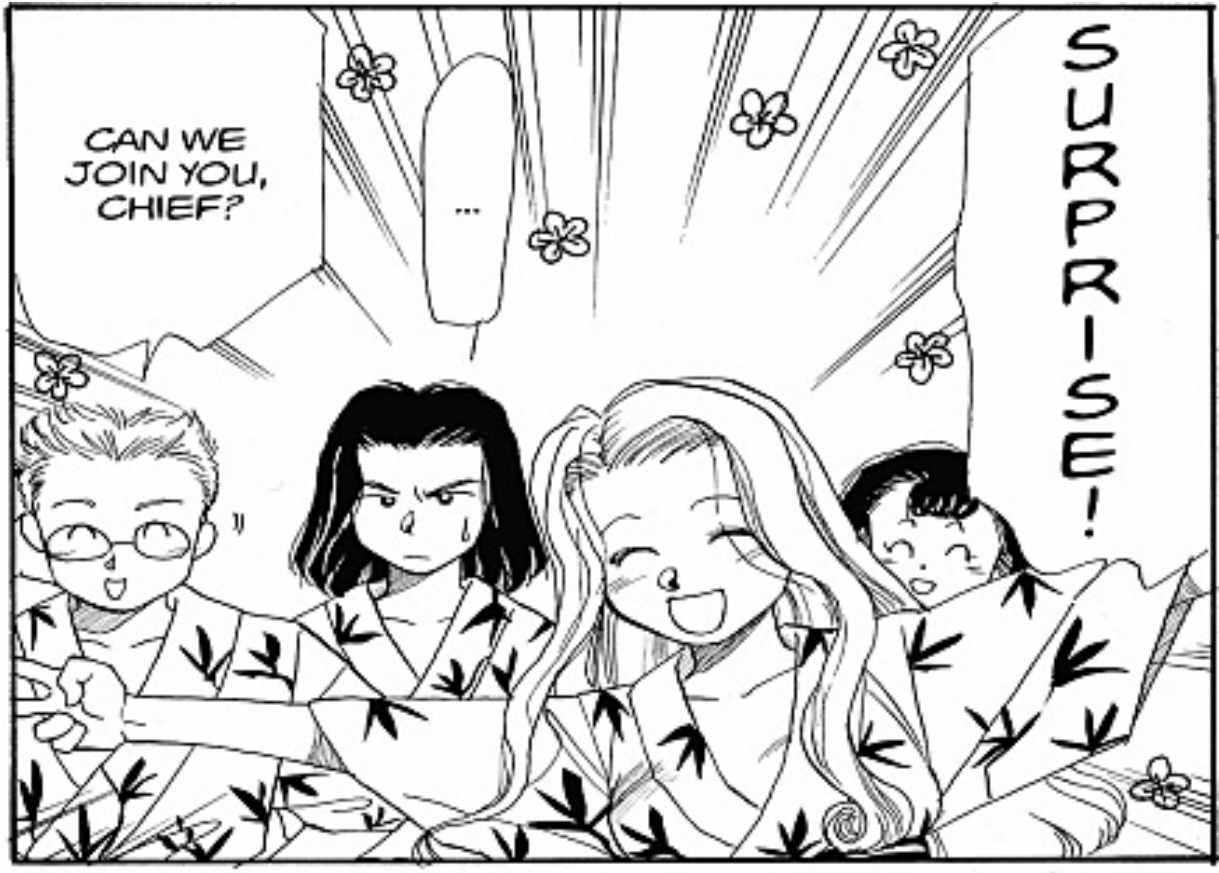
Author's note 5

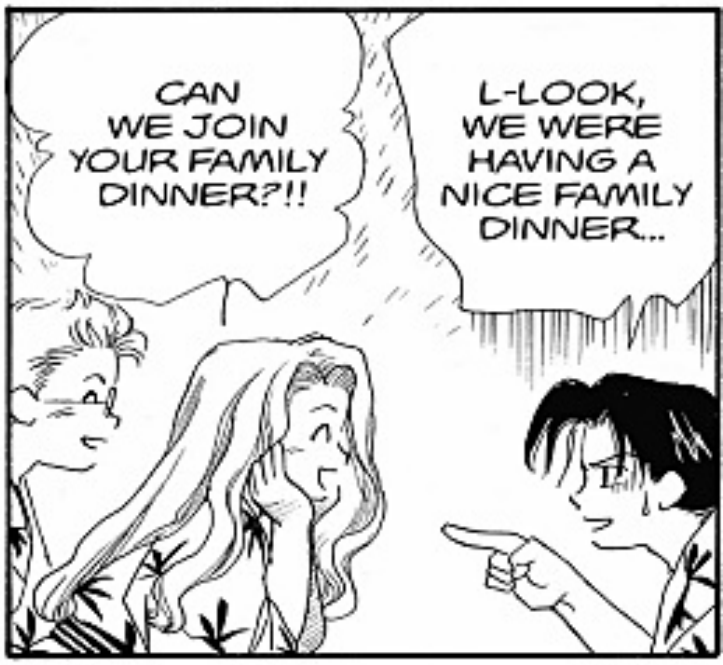
I wrote about my brother and sister without their permission, so I'll probably be in trouble. I even used their pictures.

Some of my readers pointed out that in one of the sports meet scenes, Takuya is running with his left arm and leg moving together, so I fixed it. It would've been amusing if I'd left it like that. I corrected a lot of other errors, too. Heh heh heh...

An acquaintance of one of my friends decided to buy a rabbit. I've received letters from others saying that they want to get a rabbit, too. I have just one word of advice:

Rabbits gnaw on walls and pillars to grind down their continuously growing teeth, so be sure to keep your rabbit in a spacious cage, and don't ever take your eyes off it when you take it out.





I HAVE TO GO...
KLAK
UM...

Oooo

RESTROOM

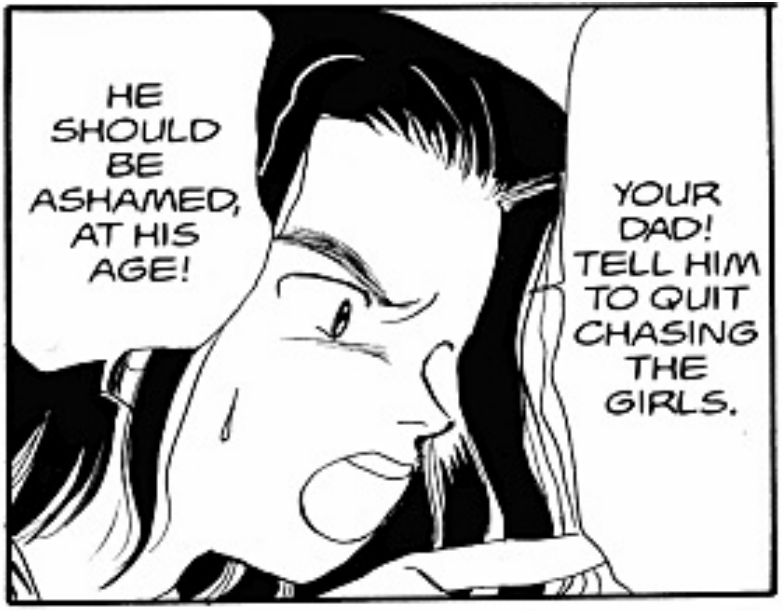
...
CHEERS!
NOW, LISTEN...

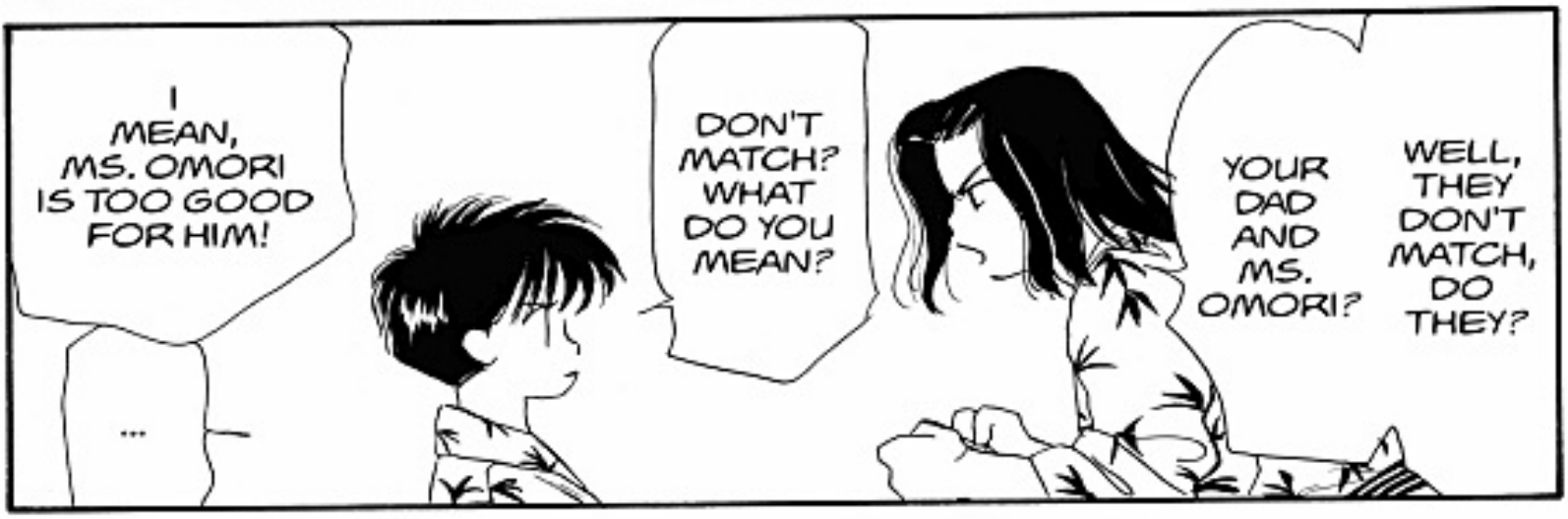
?
TELL WHO SOMETHING?
I WANT YOU TO TELL HIM SOMETHING FOR ME.

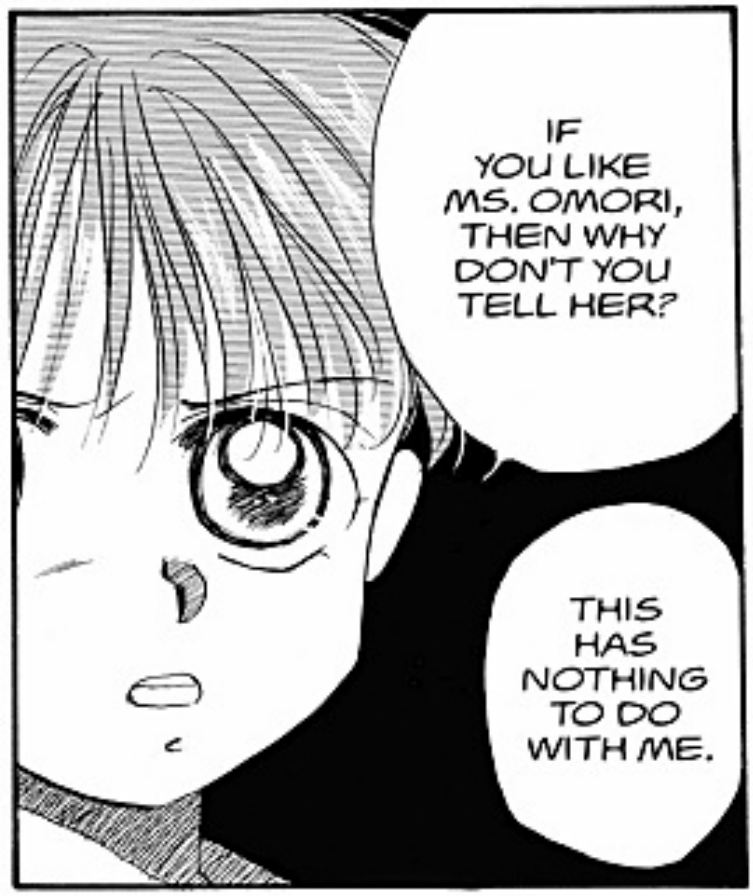
HEY!

!!
KLAK

HE'S NOT CHASING THE GIRLS!
GRR


HE SHOULD BE ASHAMED, AT HIS AGE!
YOUR DAD! TELL HIM TO QUIT CHASING THE GIRLS.


I MEAN, MS. OMORI IS TOO GOOD FOR HIM!
...
DON'T MATCH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOUR DAD AND MS. OMORI?
WELL, THEY DON'T MATCH, DO THEY?


IF YOU LIKE MS. OMORI, THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL HER?
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

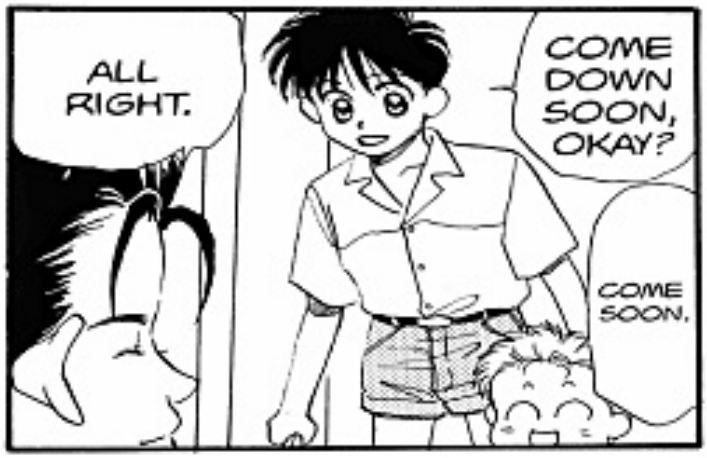
?

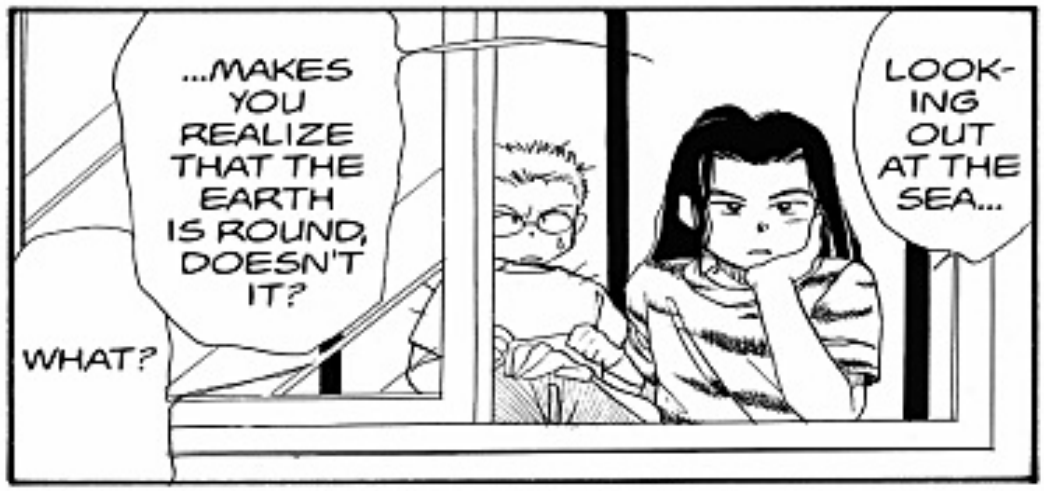
VEEN

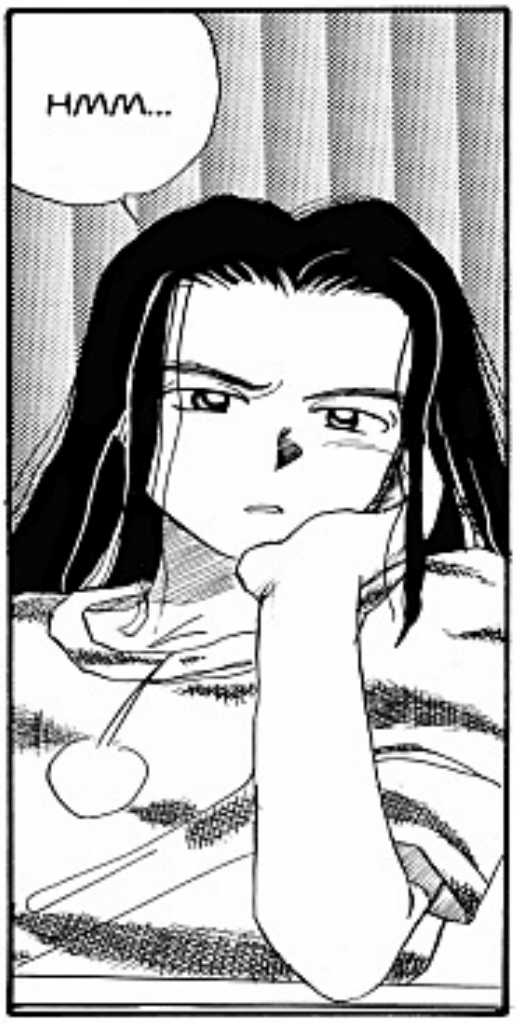
BE-SIDES...
MY DAD IS BETTER LOOKING THAN ANY OF YOU.
WHAT?!
STAGGERED
THAT COCKY BRAT!!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME!
I'M A GOOD GUY! AND HAND-SOME!
...
TOMP TOMP
HUH?
TOMP TOMP

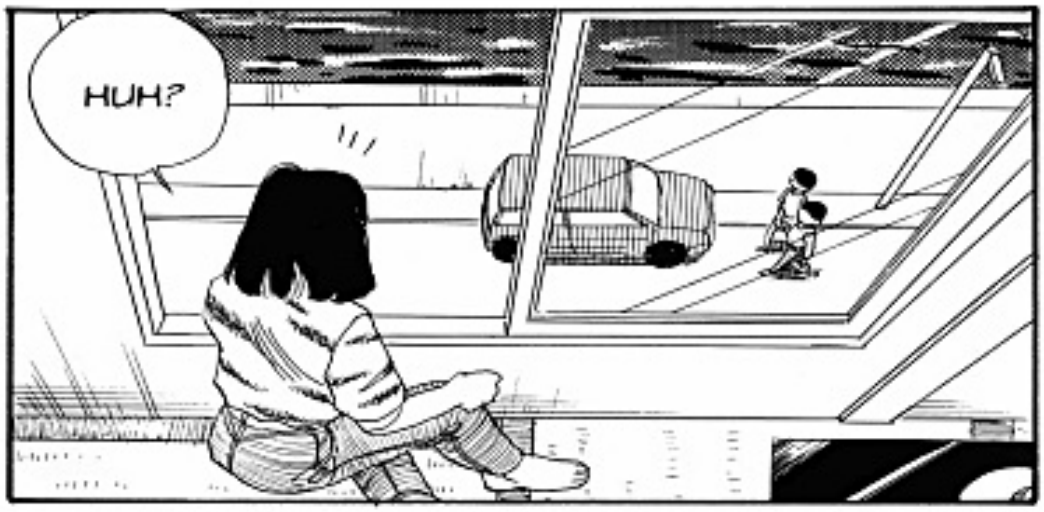
GO WHERE WE WERE YESTER-DAY.
ALL RIGHT.

DAD, WE'RE GOING DOWN TO THE BEACH.

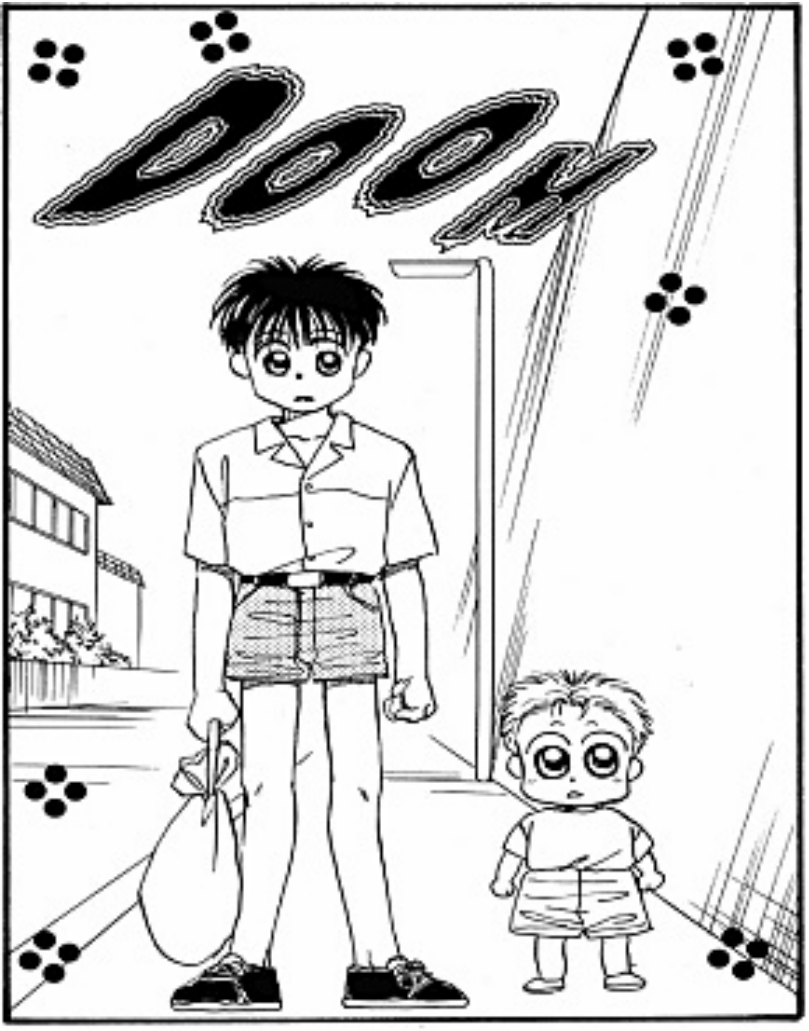

ALL RIGHT.
COME DOWN SOON, OKAY?
COME SOON.


...MAKES YOU REALIZE THAT THE EARTH IS ROUND, DOESN'T IT?
WHAT?
LOOK-ING OUT AT THE SEA...


HMM...

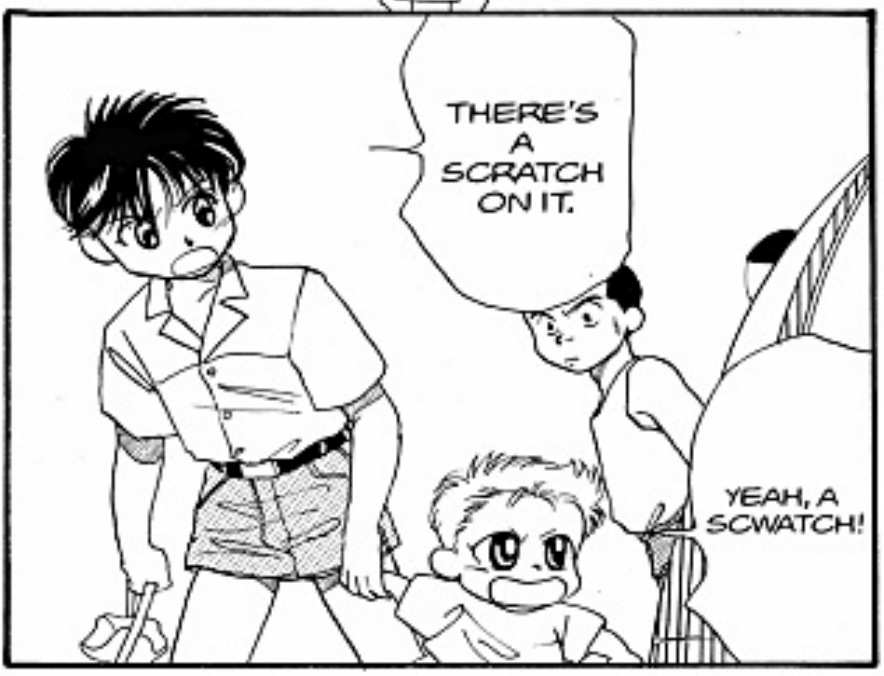

HUH?

SKREECH
OH...
WHOA...
THERE ARE JERKS LIKE THAT EVEN WAY OUT HERE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THOSE GUYS...
SKREECH


DOOM

THAT WAS COLD. IT'S A NEW CAR.

HEY, AREN'T THOSE THE CHIEF'S KIDS?
SEE THAT CAR?


YOU...
THAT CAR...
THERE'S A SCRATCH ON IT.
YEAH, A SCWATCH!

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
WE DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'.
YIKES.

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY CAR?!
SHOO SHOO
C'MON, C'MON.
BACK OFF!!
I JUST BOUGHT IT.
TOMP
TOMP
TOMP
HUH?!
WHAT'LL WE DO?
UH-OH.
THERE'S A SCRATCH ON IT.
SHAKE SHAKE
...

YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THE DAMAGE!
WHICH ONE OF YOU DID IT?!

YOU DARN KIDS!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WHAM

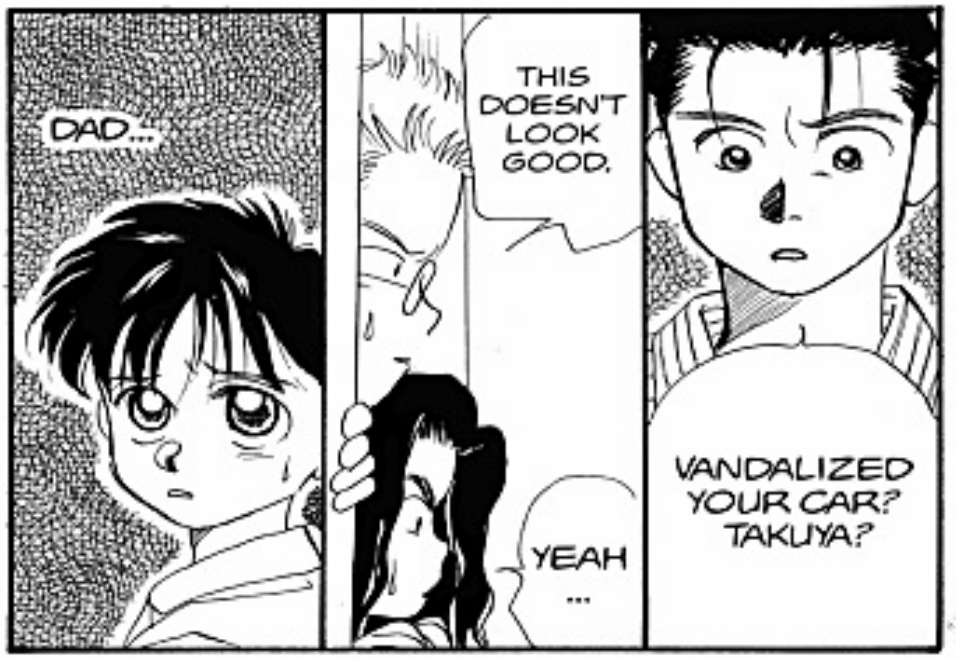
HE WAS TOUCHING YOUR CAR WHEN WE PASSED.
IT WAS HIM!
WHAT?!

I'M RIGHT HERE.
NOW LET GO OF MY SON.

IT WASN'T ME! I DIDN'T DO IT!
WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?!
WE NO SCWATCH!

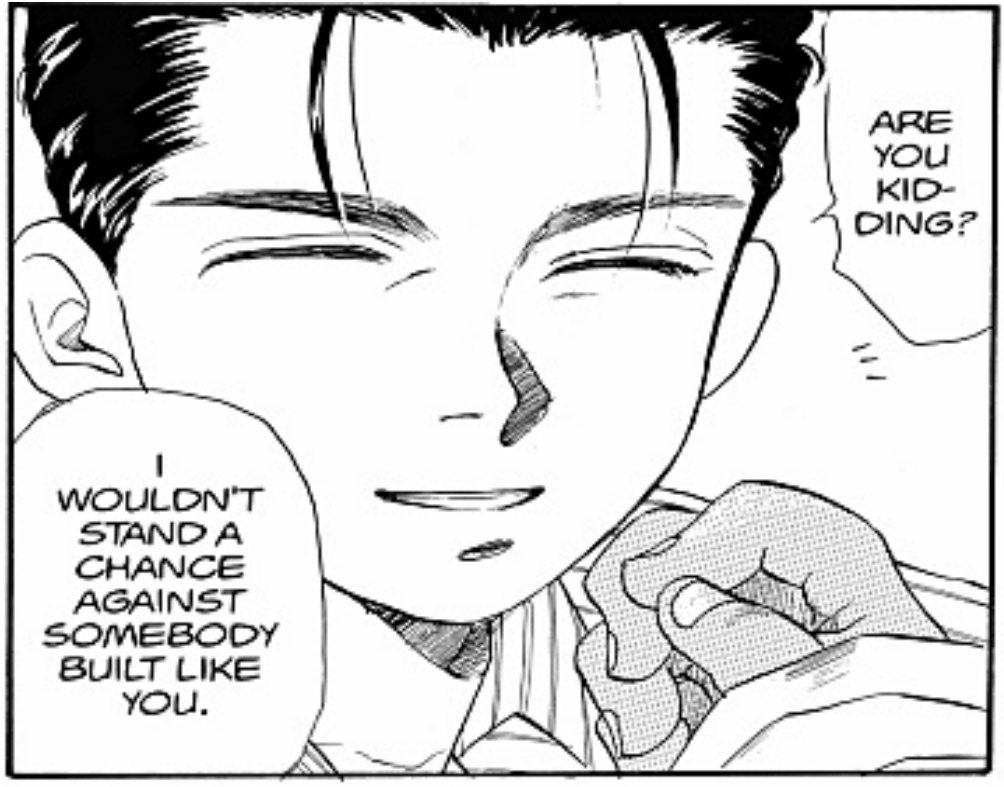
WHAT?!
YOUR SON VANDALIZED MY CAR!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID...
...BUT HE'S ONLY A KID.


DAD...
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
YEAH ...
VANDALIZED YOUR CAR? TAKUYA?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
DOOM

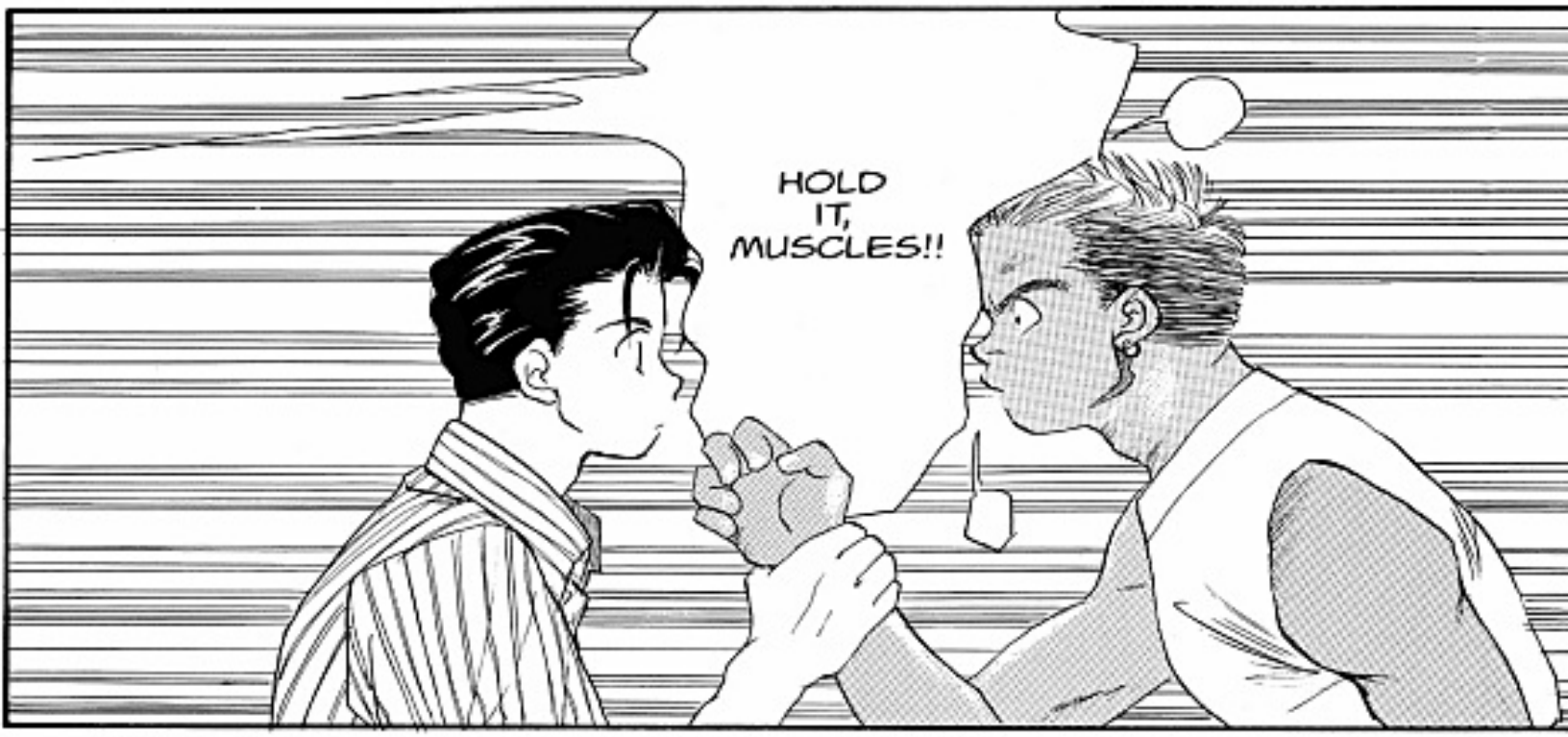
...
DADDY ...
SNUFF
I'D BET ALL THE MONEY I HAVE IN THE WORLD...
INDULGENT FATHERS LIKE YOU...
LISTEN ...
...ALWAYS SAY, "MY KID WOULD NEVER DO THAT."
TWITCH
...THAT MY SON DIDN'T DO IT.
WHY SHOULD I PAY FOR SOMETHING WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH?
KOK KOK
WHAP
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THE DAMAGE!
BUT I DON'T CARE!
SWIP


ARE YOU KID-DING?
I WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST SOMEBODY BUILT LIKE YOU.

YOU WANNA FIGHT?
MIS-TER...

THEN WHY DOES HE LOOK SO CONFIDENT?

WHAT...
...


HOLD IT, MUSCLES!!

THE CHIEF'S SON WOULD NEVER DO A THING LIKE THAT.
I SAW THE WHOLE THING!
GO, EDOMAE!
HE'S SHAKING.
THIS KID SCRATCHED YOUR CAR WITH A 10-YEN COIN.
GULP
OH! OH! OH!
YOU ROTTEN PUNKS! FIRST YOU VANDALIZE MY CAR, THEN YOU BLAME SOMEBODY ELSE?!
WHAT'S THAT?
EDO-MAE ...
CHASE THEM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.
HOLD IT, YOU BRATS!
TOMP
TOMP
TOMP
TOMP
AAAH

?
I...

I WAS SCARED.

YEAH. THANKS.
CHIEF, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YOU WERE SO CALM. DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD TAKE THAT GUY?
CHIEF...

NO WAY.
BUT MAYBE I COULD'VE OUTRUN HIM.

?
THANK YOU, MR. EDOMAE.
TUG TUG
WHAT A STUD...
PHEW ...
"THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE."
I HAVEN'T BEEN SO NERVOUS FOR A LONG TIME.
SMILE
IT'S A GOOD THING EDOMAE SAW WHAT HAPPENED.
HE BELIEVED IN ME.
HE'S A GOOD KID.
AW, IT WAS NOTHING.

I'M GLAD...

I'M GLAD HE'S MY DAD.

KROOSH

WHAT? YOU DID?

...CHIEF ENOKI WAS A GOOD GUY.

YEAH, I ALWAYS KNEW...

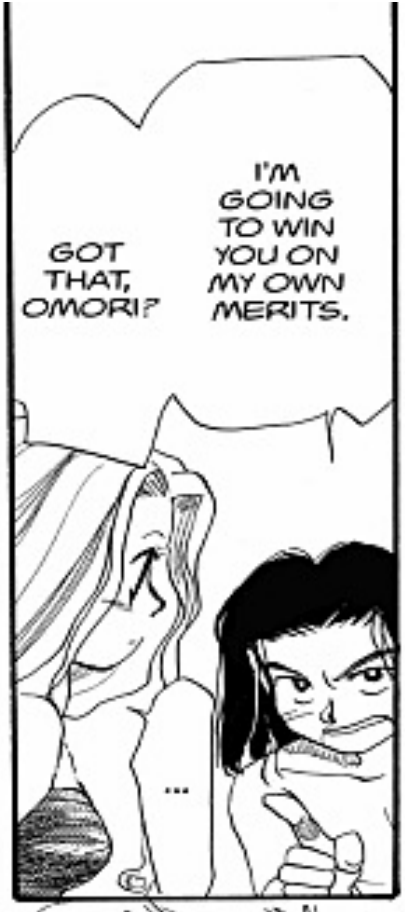
SLAP SLAP

SIGH

CHIEF ENOKI IS A WONDERFUL MAN.

THAT'S WHY HIS SONS ARE SO SWEET.

I'M GOING SWIM-MING.
FIRST OF ALL, I'M GOING TO BECOME A BRONZE GOD OF SUMMER.
I'M GETTING A TAN!
IDIOT!
TMP
TUMP

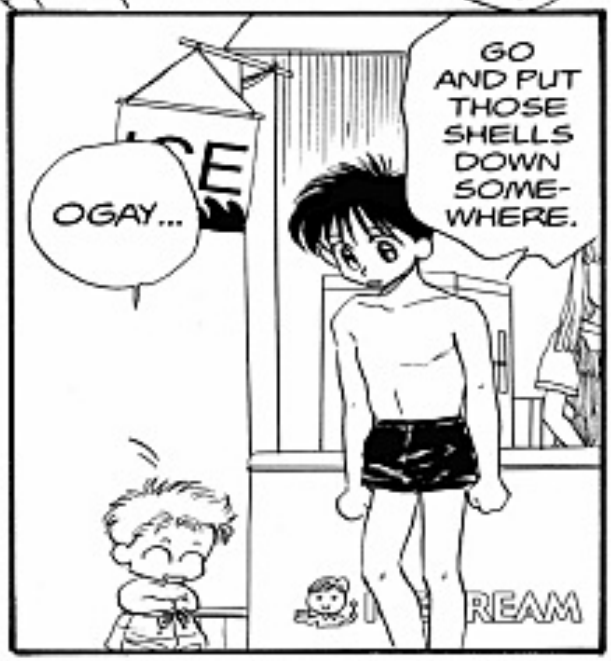

GOT THAT, OMORI?
I'M GOING TO WIN YOU ON MY OWN MERITS.
...

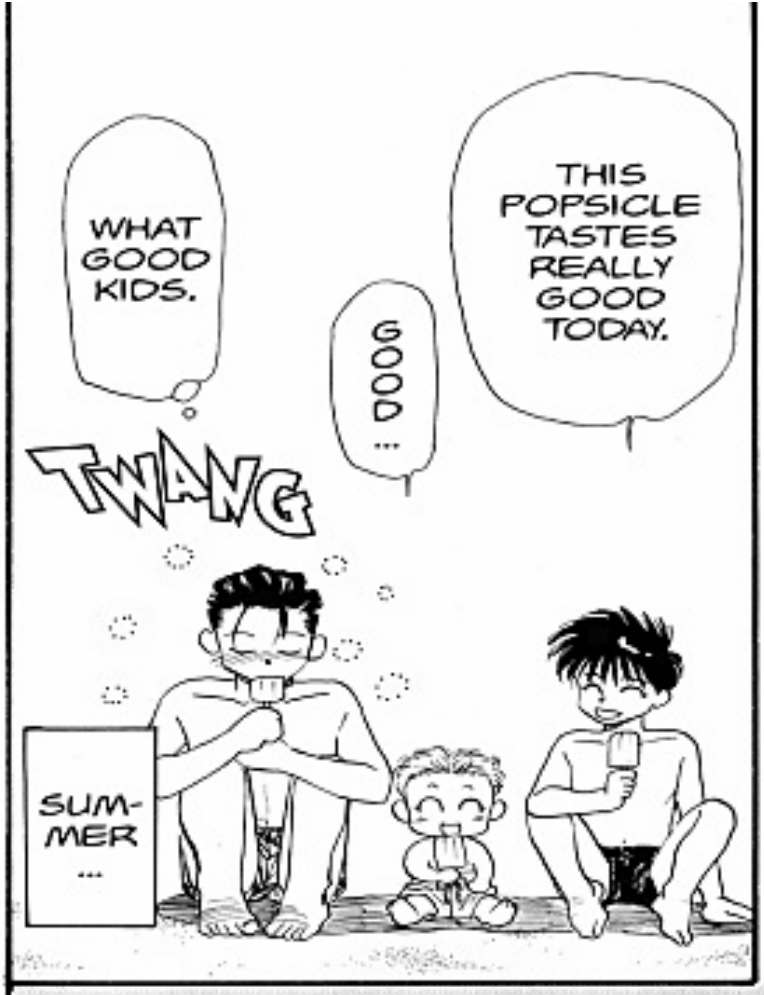
HE'S A BETTER MAN THAN ME.
I...
I'M NOT GOING TO WORRY ABOUT HIM, ANY-MORE.

YEAH!
MINORU, LET'S GET A POPSICLE.

TUP TUP TUP
TUZZY
TUZZY

!!


OGAY...
GO AND PUT THOSE SHELLS DOWN SOME-WHERE.
REAM



SPLOOSH

...HAS JUST BEGUN.

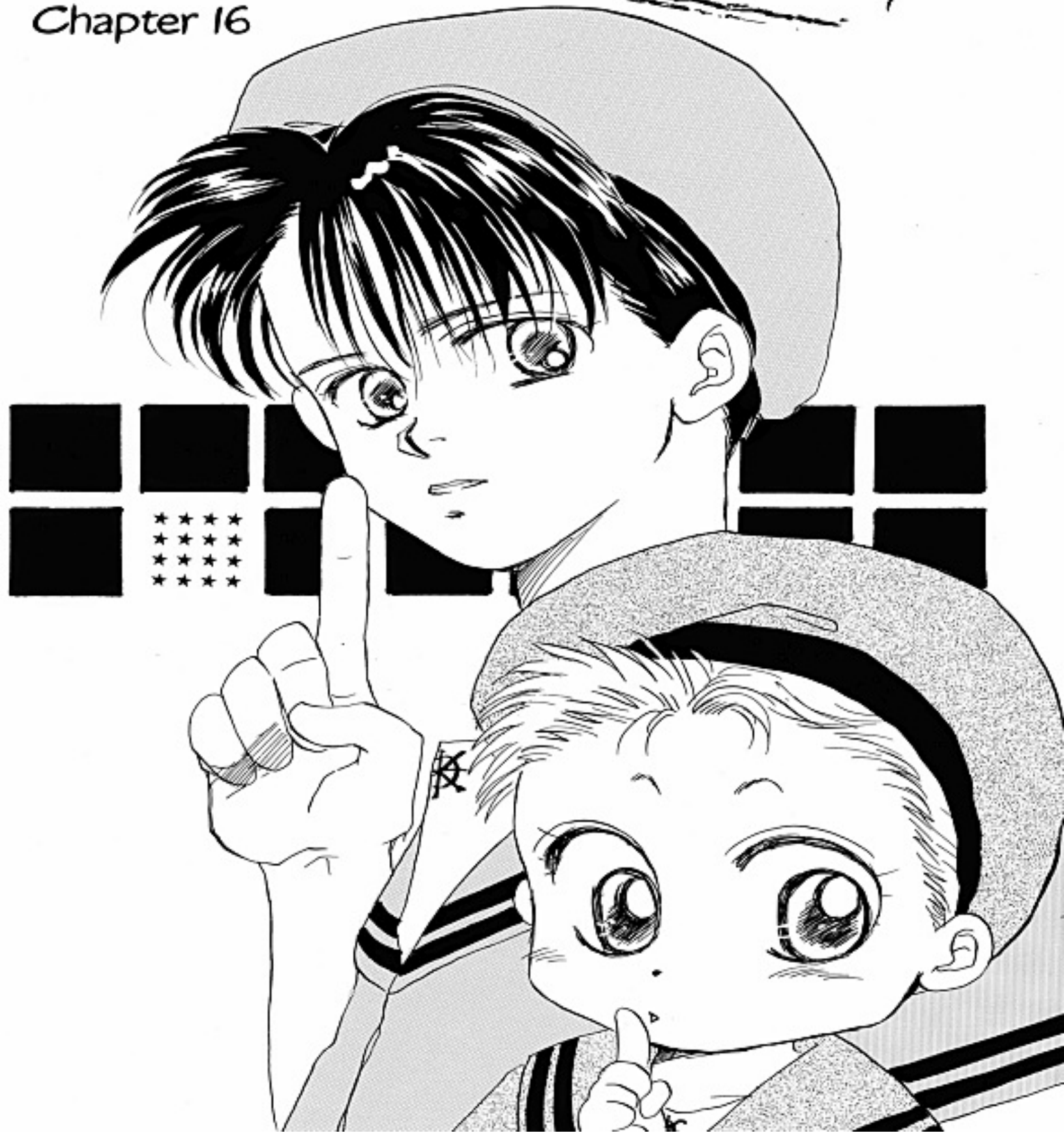
HAHA HAHA HAHA HA.

HEY?! WHO DID IT?!

CHAPTER 15/THE END

BABY & Me

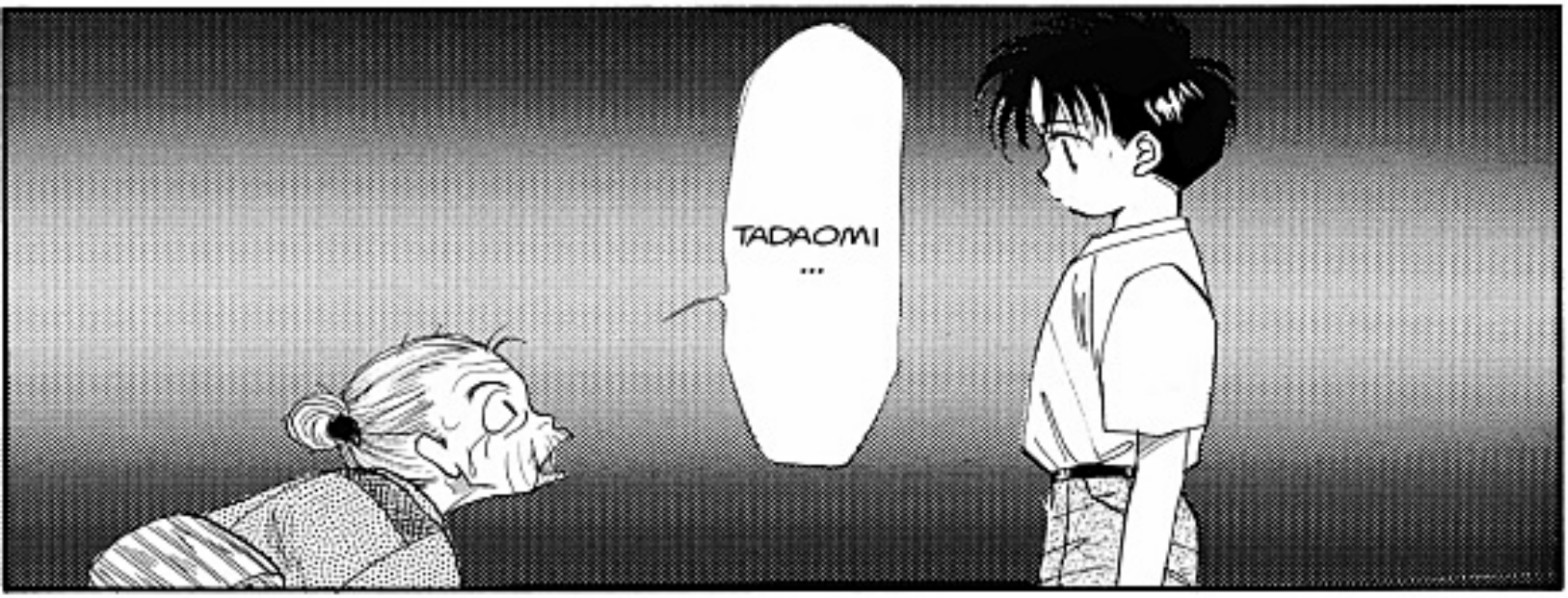
Chapter 16



YOU'RE MOVING TO ANOTHER INN?
YES.
ALL RIGHT, THEN...
MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY TO WORK WHEN YOU GET BACK.
YES, SIR.
GOOD-BYE.
BYE-BYE.
BYE-BYE.
I HAVE RESER-VATIONS FOR TWO NIGHTS AT A HOT SPRINGS.
OH!
THAT SOUNDS NICE.
GO STRAIGHT DOWN THIS ROAD...

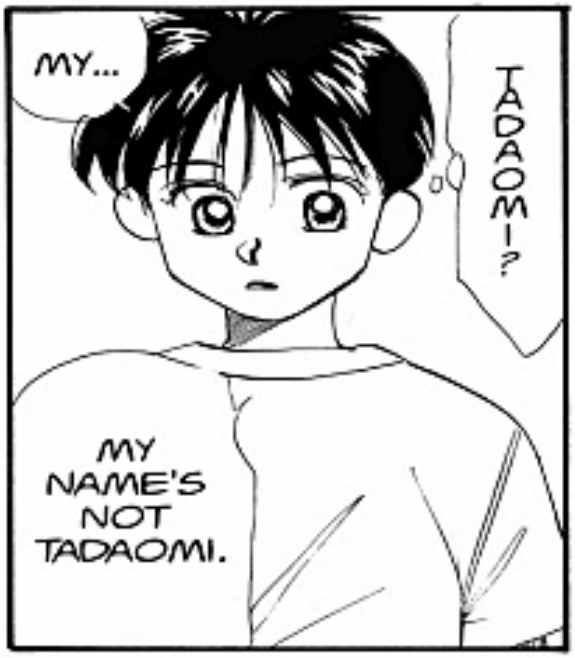
IS THIS IT?
...WAS ABOUT AN HOUR AWAY BY BUS.
THE HOT SPRINGS INN...
VROOOM
IT'S CREEPY.
IT LOOKS... HISTORIC.
WAKAKUSA INN
I GUESS.
DON'T YOU THINK?
THESE OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLACES ARE BETTER THAN THE MORE POPULAR ONES.

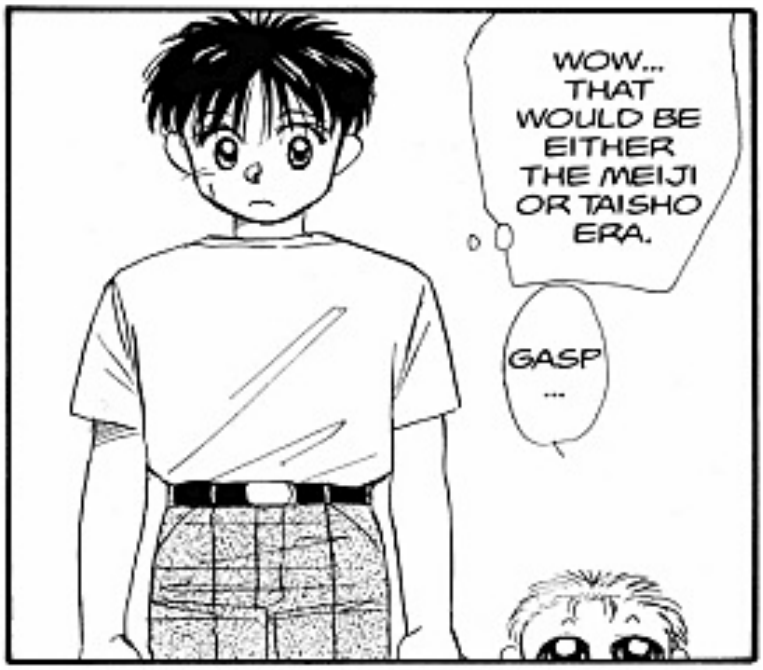
!!
YOU'RE THE ENOKI FAMILY FROM TOKYO?
WELCOME TO OUR INN.
!!
TA...
I'M SORRY. HE'S A LITTLE TIRED, I THINK.
MINORU! THAT'S RUDE! SHE'S HUMAN!!
WAAH! MONKEY SCARE ME!!
...

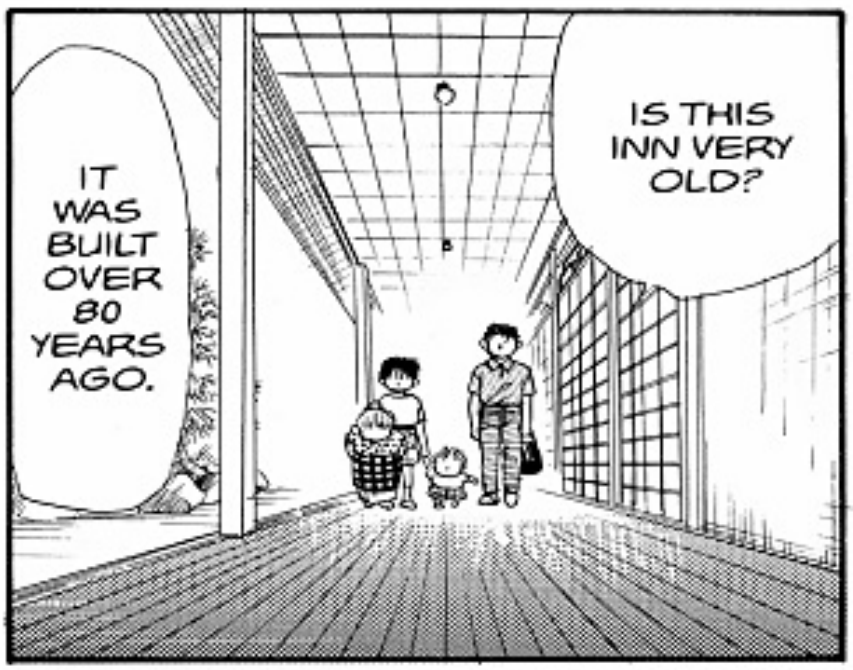

TADAOMI ...

I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST THAT I KNEW A BOY WHO LOOKED A LOT LIKE YOU.
?
THIS WAY, PLEASE.

HUH?


TADAOMI!?
MY...
MY NAME'S NOT TADAOMI.


WOW... THAT WOULD BE EITHER THE MEIJI OR TAISHO ERA.
GASP ...


IS THIS INN VERY OLD?
IT WAS BUILT OVER 80 YEARS AGO.

HEE
HUH?
THERE'S NOTHING THERE.
WHAT?
BWAZA, WOOK! SEE?

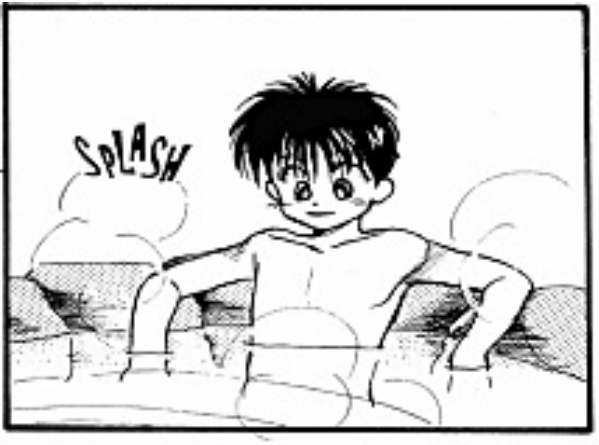
I'LL PUT MINORU TO BED. YOU GO AHEAD, TAKUYA.
I SEEPY ...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MINORU ?
SKRK SKRK

DAD, CAN I GO AND SOAK IN THE HOT SPRINGS?

?
?

SEE YOU LATER.
OKAY, THEN...
OH...
OH... OH...
KSHHH
WOW...
WOW... WOW...

KSHHHH

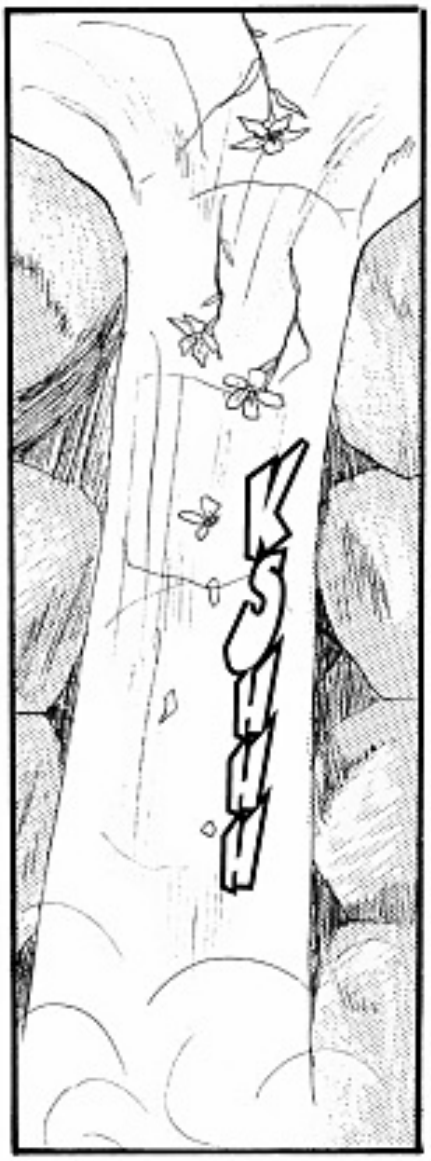

SPLASH

AHHH ... ♡

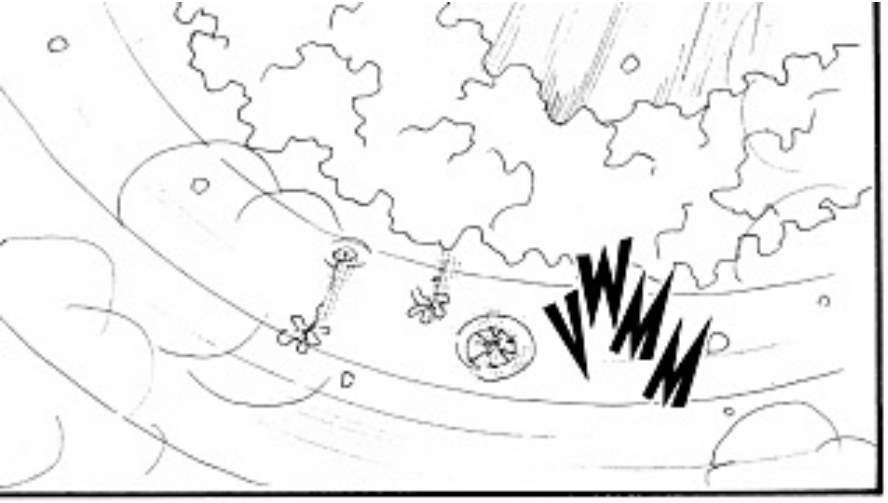
I FEEL WEIRD BEING THE ONLY ONE HERE.
I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER GUESTS HERE...

...THESE HOT SPRINGS ARE GREAT.
THIS INN IS KIND OF GLOOMY, BUT...
THROB
THROB
THROB

FLOWERS...


KSHHH

KSHHH


VWMM

KSHH

SPLASH

OH!

THEN THE FLOWERS SANK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE POOL...
BZZZ
...AND DISAP-PEARED WITHOUT A TRACE.

SPLASH
HUH?
HUH?
SPLASH

KSHH
BLUP BLUP
THE FLOWERS DIS-APPEARED ...

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
MUMBLE
SNUFF SNUFF
IT WAS LIKE THEY JUST DIS-APPEARED.
MAYBE, BUT IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE IT...
ZZZ ZZZ
MAYBE THEY GOT SUCKED INTO THE DRAIN.
WOOSH
FSHH
HUH ...?
ONE.
TWO.
THREE CIR-CLES.
FSHH
WOOSH

KISS!
WHERE DID THIS LITTLE GIRL COME FROM?
NAG-NAG.
CANDY.
...TEN!
*SHE'S SINGING A COUNTING SONG.
MUSHROOMS.
TORTOISESHELL.
CUCKOO.
POOR BRO-THER.
BRO-THER...

IT'S SO SAD.
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE SOON.
DOOM
OW!!
MY HEAD HURTS!
MY CHEST IS TIGHT!
I CAN'T... BREATHE...
TAKUYA ...
TAKUYA ?

HUH?
UNH
UNH

YOU'VE GOT A FEVER, TAKUYA!!
OH!
WHEEZE

...
GOO ...

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP?
IT'S ALREADY 10 O'CLOCK.

IT'S A COLD.

I'LL GO AND GET THE MANAGER!
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
BWAZA!
WAAAAA!
...

I DON'T WANT... TO DIE...
UNH...
WAAAAAAAAH
WHEEZE

I WONDER HOW HE CAUGHT A COLD.
BUT ...
SHHHK
IT WASN'T VERY CHILLY LAST NIGHT.
WHA... WHAT?!
GO FOR A WALK.
NO!
TMP TMP TMP TMP
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE?! HE LOOKS TERRIBLE!!
WHAT?!
WAAAH
I'LL CALL THE DOCTOR...
SO YOU TWO...
HUH?
IS THERE A LITTLE GIRL HERE?
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
MA'AM ...
LET ME SEE ...
WHAT WAS SHE SINGING?
SHE WAS THROWING A BEANBAG AND SINGING A COUNTING SONG.
WHEEZE
WITH SHORT HAIR, WEARING A KIMONO?
AND, UM... CANDY, I THINK.
MUSHROOMS ...
THREE CIRCLES ...

PEACHES...
WHEN YOU HAVE A COLD, IT'S GOOD TO EAT CANNED PEACHES. RIGHT, MINORU?
I'LL GO GET SOME.
TMP TMP TMP
OH, YEAH!
SNAP
MINORU'S DOWN HERE.
THAT OLD HAG--I MEAN, OLD WOMAN... HOW DARE SHE SEND ME OUT FOR A WALK WHEN MY SON IS DELIRIOUS WITH A FEVER?
I HAVEN'T EVEN COMBED MY HAIR YET.
CHIRRUP CHIRRUP
HUH...?
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
HUH?
THAT'S THE GIRL...
HER NAME WAS KIKUKO.
WHAT IS IT?
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

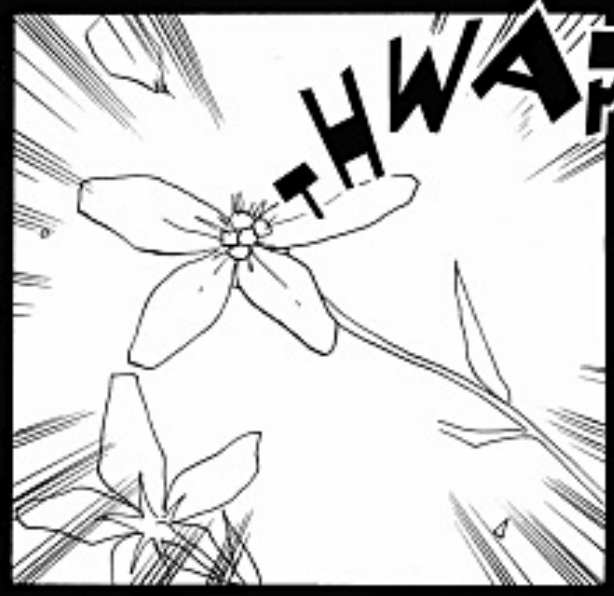
KIKUKO...
...WAS MY FATHER'S SISTER'S CHILD.
THE BOY NEXT TO HER WAS HER OLDER BROTHER, TADAOMI.
HUH ?!
HE LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?
HE WAS 13 WHEN THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN, A LITTLE OLDER THAN YOU ARE, I SUPPOSE.
HE HAD A MORE DELI-CATE LOOK.
HE WAS A VERY QUIET CHILD.
...
WHEN TADAOMI WAS 14 AND KIKUKO WAS FOUR, THEY LOST THEIR PARENTS...
...AND MY FATHER TOOK THEM IN.

Author's Note 6

I always puzzle over what I should write about in these columns. Well, *Baby and Me* has gone into its second year and the third graphic novel volume has been published, so I guess I'm happy. I worried with my editor whether I'd be able to get three volumes out this year, but I managed to reach my goal. I'm so glad.

I still haven't seen my graphic novels in the neighborhood bookstore. I've seen them in large bookstores, though. My relatives keep asking for them, so I've been looking, but I can't find them. It seems a little strange that I've been searching for my own books.

--Marimo



KIKUKO PICKED THOSE FLOWERS JUST FOR YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE THAT.
TAD-AOMI ...

I DON'T WANT THEM!
STOP PESTERING ME, KIKUKO!

...YOU KEEP BY YOUR PILLOW?
TADAOMI, WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN THAT WOODEN BOX ...

...AFTER I DIE.
YOU CAN LOOK INSIDE...

TADAOMI-?!
KOFF
KOFF
GACK

GACK

GO...
...AWAY!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
KIKUKO...
WHEEZE
WAAH
BROTHER! BROTHER!
VOOM
VOOM
TADAOMI DIED THAT WINTER...
...AFTER SPEWING HIS BRIGHT RED BLOOD ONTO THE SNOW.
I WANT TO STAY ...
NO!
...WITH YOU!
I FOUND THIS PICTURE OF HIS FAMILY ...
AFTER HE DIED, I OPENED THE BOX THAT HE ALWAYS KEPT BY HIS PILLOW.
...AND ONE OF KIKUKO'S BEANBAGS IN IT.
WAAH
WAAH

KIKUKO WAS STILL ANGRY WITH HER BROTHER WHEN SHE DIED.
I WONDER IF MY FEVER WILL BE DOWN BY THEN.
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
WE'RE GOING HOME TOMOR-ROW...
WHEEZE
KRA-A-A-AW
KNOWING THAT KIKUKO WOULD BE LEFT ALONE AFTER HIS DEATH...
BACK IN THOSE DAYS, PATIENTS WITH TUBER-CULOSIS WERE KEPT ISOLATED.
...I THINK HE WANTED TO ALIENATE HER SO THAT SHE WOULDN'T MISS HIM.
SOME WOODEN BEAMS FELL ON HER.
BUT KIKUKO DIED SOON AFTER.

...
BEAMS?!
AAGH!!
GLARE
!!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
HUH...?
WHEEZE
SHE
EN
CAN-NED PEACH-ES?
I BOUGHT THEM JUST FOR YOU.
WHAM
!!
TAKUYA, HAVE SOME CANNED PEACHES. ♡

I DON'T KNOW.
WHY IS MINORU SMILING LIKE THAT?
SHEEN
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
SHEEN

CHIRRUP
CHIRRUP
KAW
KAW

UMM...

MUMFR

ZZZ
ZZZ

ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ

ZZZ
YOU KNOW ...
...MY BRO-THER...
...IS GOING TO DIE.
...
...
I HATE MY BIG BROTHER!

WHAP
I wuv!
BWAZA!
I HATE HIM.
I...
WUV.
LOVE...?
HE'S ALWAYS CROSS WITH ME.
KI-KUKO --
I'LL READ YOU A BOOK.

HE'S LIKE A MONSTER.
DON'T DIE...
DON'T DIE...
BROTHER IS VERY SICK.
BWAZA GOOD.
BWAZA ...
HMPH
MINORU ...?
HE'S GOING TO CRY...
UNH
...
MINORU ...?
MM...

KIKUKO...

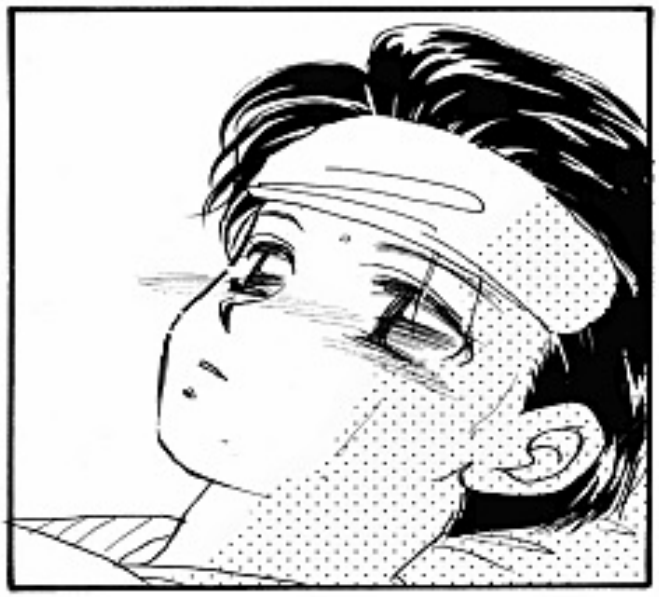
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

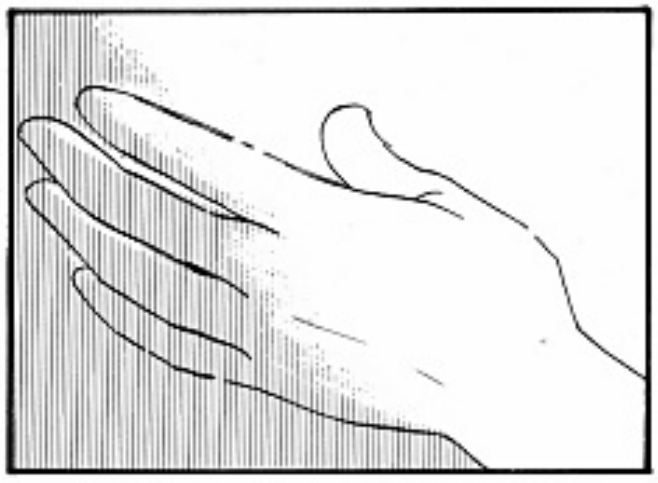
SOB...

KIKUKO...

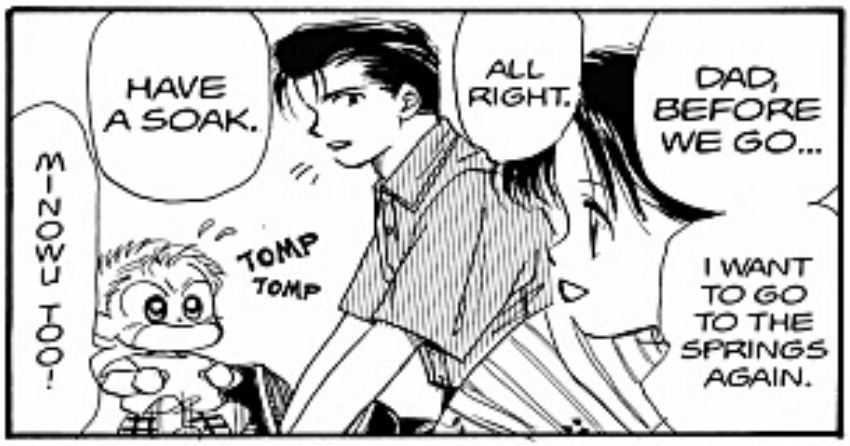
BROTHER ...
I'M SORRY.

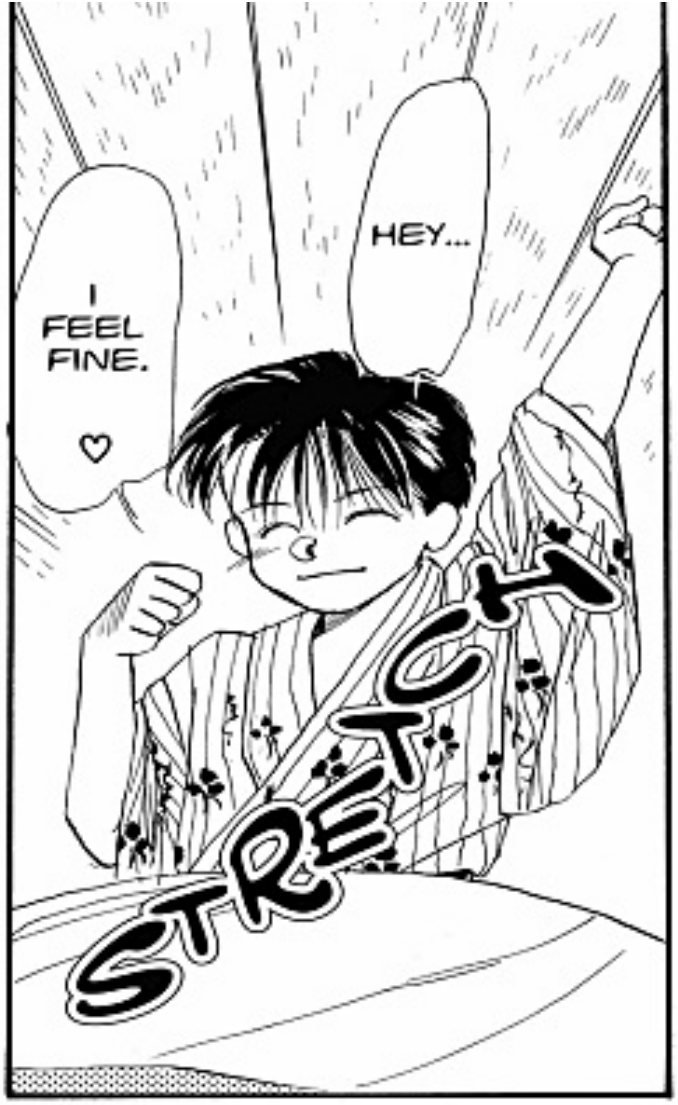
SNUFF SNUFF

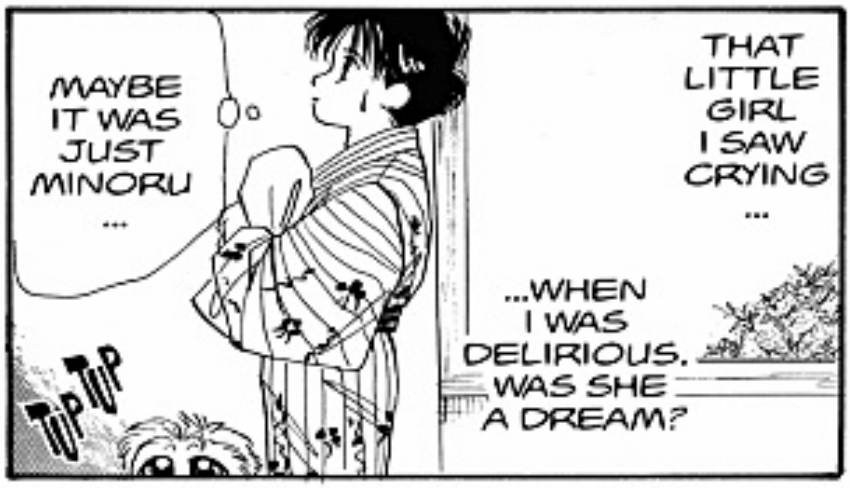


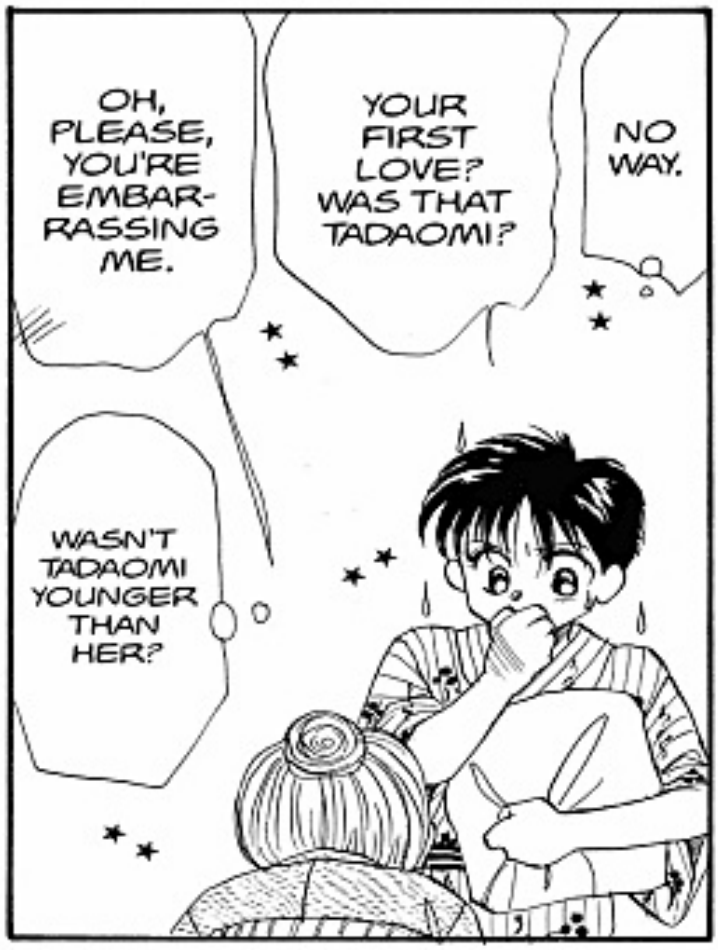


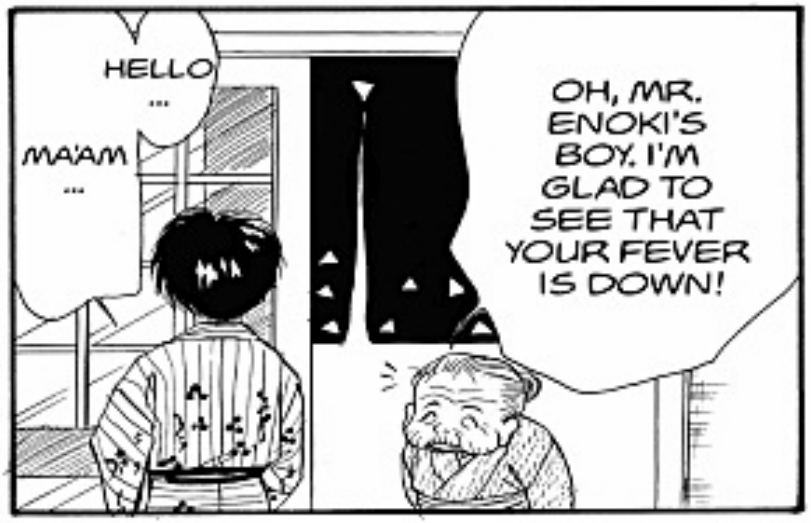
HA HA...
HE PATTED MY HEAD.
THE NEXT DAY...
...MY FEVER WAS GONE.
?
?
VWMM

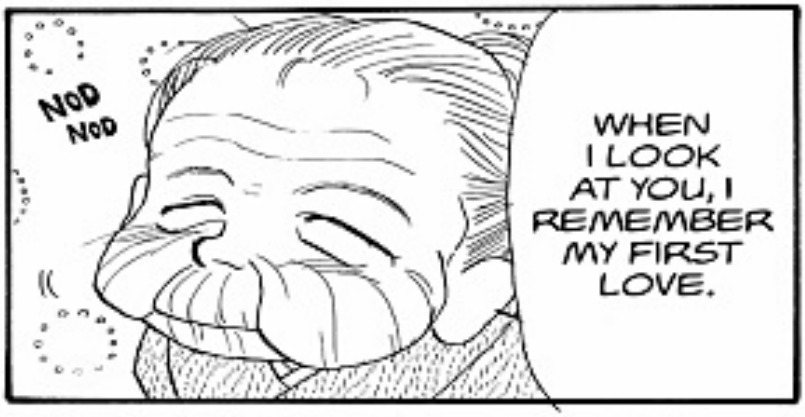

HAVE A SOAK.
ALL RIGHT.
DAD, BEFORE WE GO...
MINOWU TOO!
TOMP TOMP
I WANT TO GO TO THE SPRINGS AGAIN.

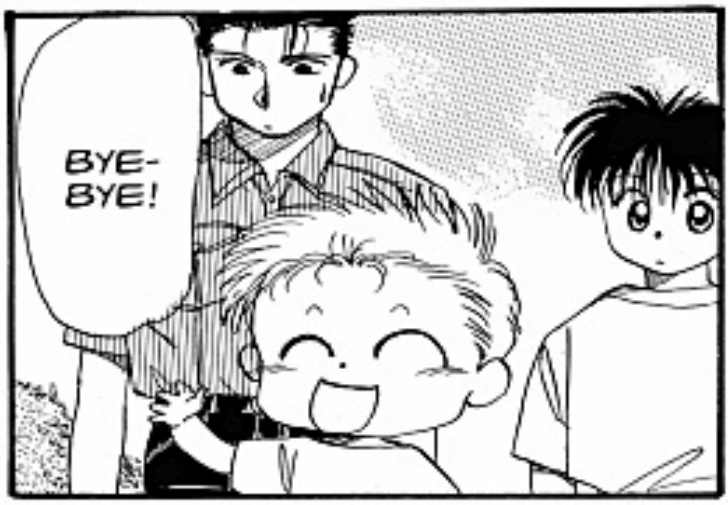

HEY...
I FEEL FINE.
STRETCH


MAYBE IT WAS JUST MINORU ...
THAT LITTLE GIRL I SAW CRYING ...
...WHEN I WAS DELIRIOUS. WAS SHE A DREAM?
TIP TIP


OH, PLEASE, YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME.
YOUR FIRST LOVE? WAS THAT TADAOMI?
NO WAY.
WASN'T TADAOMI YOUNGER THAN HER?


HELLO ...
MA'AM ...
OH, MR. ENOKI'S BOY. I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOUR FEVER IS DOWN!


NOD NOD
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I REMEMBER MY FIRST LOVE.



CHAPTER 16/THE END

A COMPLETE LIST OF SPECIAL STAND-ALONE FEATURES PUBLISHED BY HANA TO YUME (FLOWERS AND DREAMS) FROM MY AWARD-WINNER UNTIL NOW.

WE HAD TO SHRINK EVERYTHING, SO YOU PROBABLY CAN'T READ THE WORDS, BUT... HEY, STOP THE BOOING!

"THE FACES OF TWO BROTHERS" (18 PAGES) PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 1988 ISSUE OF *HANA TO YUME* EPO. WINNER OF THE 152ND HMC TOP PRIZE. *HANA TO YUME* INCLUDES AN HMC CARTOONIST SECTION AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH MONTHLY ISSUE. NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT I RECEIVED THE TOP PRIZE. (THE OLDER BROTHER IS A PROBLEM CHILD, AND THE YOUNGER BROTHER IS AN HONOR STUDENT. BUT THE YOUNGER BROTHER HAS A SECRET SIDE TO HIM.)

"DUMB, FLAKY, AND SELFISH" (30 PAGES) PUBLISHED IN 1990, *HANA TO YUME* VOL. 15. WINNER OF THE EXCELLENT WORK AWARD IN 16TH HMC BIG CHALLENGE. THIS IS THE WORK THAT BECAME FAMOUS IN SOME CIRCLES FOR BEING DONE ON SKETCH PAPER. INCIDENTALLY, THE STORY ABOVE WAS ALSO DONE ON SKETCH PAPER. I REALIZE NOW HOW BAD I WAS THEN. (SELF-CENTERED AKI'S BOYFRIEND IS A NERD WHO WEARS GLASSES, BUT WHEN A BEAUTIFUL GIRL SHOWS UP AND SAYS SHE'S IN LOVE WITH HIM, AKI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HIM TAKES A SUDDEN TURN.)

"TIME LIMIT" 30 PAGES
DEBUT WORK PUBLISHED IN 1990, *HANA TO YUME* VOL. 22. YOU PROBABLY KNOW THIS STORY. WHAT? YOU DON'T? THEN I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T READ *BABY AND ME* VOL. 2!! YES, THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND IT. I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING SERENE. WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I TRIED.
(YOSHIDA, THE BOY KYOKO LIKES, IS CHANGING SCHOOLS. SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH MORE TIME TO CONNECT WITH HIM.)

"KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY SECRET BOY!!" (30 PAGES)
PUBLISHED IN 1991, *HANA TO YUME* VOL. 6. A READER WROTE ME ASKING WHAT SORT OF STORY "SECRET BOY" WAS. IT'S A STRANGE STORY. MY INEXPERIENCE IS EVIDENT IN THE LAYOUT, SO I'D LIKE TO REDO IT SOMEDAY.
(SHIN NOGI IS IN LOVE WITH HONOR STUDENT MEI FUJIEDA, BUT FUJIEDA HAS THREE PERSONALITIES- ONE IS A SERIOUS STUDENT, ONE IS A DELINQUENT, AND ONE IS KIND OF SWISHY.)

"STORY OF A TOKYO BOY" (20 PAGES)
PUBLISHED IN 1991, *HANA TO YUME* VOL. 9. I USUALLY START BY THINKING ABOUT HOW TO BRING OUT THE ATMOSPHERE OF A STORY. IN THIS CASE, I WANTED TO SHOW THE GENTLENESS AND WARMTH OF LIFE IN THE COUNTRY. BUT THE CHARACTERS DON'T LOOK LIKE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL KIDS, THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE IN GRADE SCHOOL! (YOSHIZO AND HIS MOTHER MOVE TO THE COUNTRY FROM TOKYO. YOSHIZO HAS DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING AND DOES A LOT OF CRYING.)

"NATSU AND KIMI'S IRRITATING GRADUATION" (40 PAGES)
PUBLISHED IN 1991, *HANA TO YUME* 9/1 PLANET SPECIAL ISSUE. WHEN I WAS WORKING ON THIS STORY, I WAS HAVING SOME PERSONAL PROBLEMS, SO IT WAS A DIFFICULT TIME FOR ME. ALL OF MY LOVE STORIES SEEM TO TURN OUT SAPPY.
(HE LOVES HER AND WANTS TO BE GENTLE WITH HER, BUT HE ALWAYS ENDS UP SAYING SOMETHING SPITEFUL AND MAKING HER CRY. CAN SHE ACCEPT HIS UNUSUAL BRAND OF LOVE?)

"BABY AND ME" (30 PAGES)
PUBLISHED IN 1991, *HANA TO YUME* VOL. 11. THIS BECAME THE FIRST CHAPTER OF *BABY AND ME*. IT WAS INTENDED TO BE A STAND-ALONE STORY, SO I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IT HAS BECOME A SERIES. I'M STILL SUCH A NOVICE.

"I'M A BIG BROTHER" (40 PAGES)
PUBLISHED IN 1991, *HANA TO YUME* VOL. 17. SINCE "BABY AND ME" BECAME SUCH A HIT, I WAS ASKED TO DO A SEQUEL. IT WAS MY FIRST 2-COLOR PRINT JOB, SO I DID THE WHOLE STORY IN ONLY BLUE AND RED. (WHAT A WEIRDO.)

HANA TO YUME BEGAN CARRYING MY *BABY AND ME* SERIES BEGINNING WITH VOL. 21 IN 1991.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY SPECIAL STAND-ALONE FEATURES? I'M EXHAUSTED. I SPENT THE NIGHT AT A LOCAL CONVENIENCE STORE HOGGING THE COPY MACHINE. THE SAMPLE PAGES ARE TOO SMALL TO READ, BUT I HOPE YOU WILL GET ALL MY COMICS AND READ THEM SOMEDAY. I'VE BEEN REQUESTING A FEW PAGES LIKE THESE WHERE I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT WHAT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON. I HOPE I CAN DO THIS IN THE NEXT VOLUME TOO. PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT KIND OF STORIES YOU'D LIKE ME TO DO. RECENTLY I DISCOVERED THE PICTURES ON THE RIGHT IN A BOX IN MY CLOSET AND HAD A GOOD LAUGH. I DREW THEM WHEN I WAS IN FIFTH GRADE (I WAS 10 YEARS OLD). IT'S DRAWN TO BE READ FROM LEFT TO RIGHT. EVEN MY BROTHER AND SISTER FELL ON THE FLOOR LAUGHING WHEN THEY READ IT. WHAT'S WITH THAT HAIRSTYLE?! I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THEM TOO. THE TITLE IS "GO, GO, YŪICHI". NERDY NAME... THIS IS AWFUL. I'M LAUGHING SO HARD, MY STOMACH HURTS.

THOSE ARE ALL OF MY STAND-ALONE SPECIALS FROM MY AWARD-WINNING ONE TO MY CURRENT ONES WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED BY *HANA TO YUME*. THE END

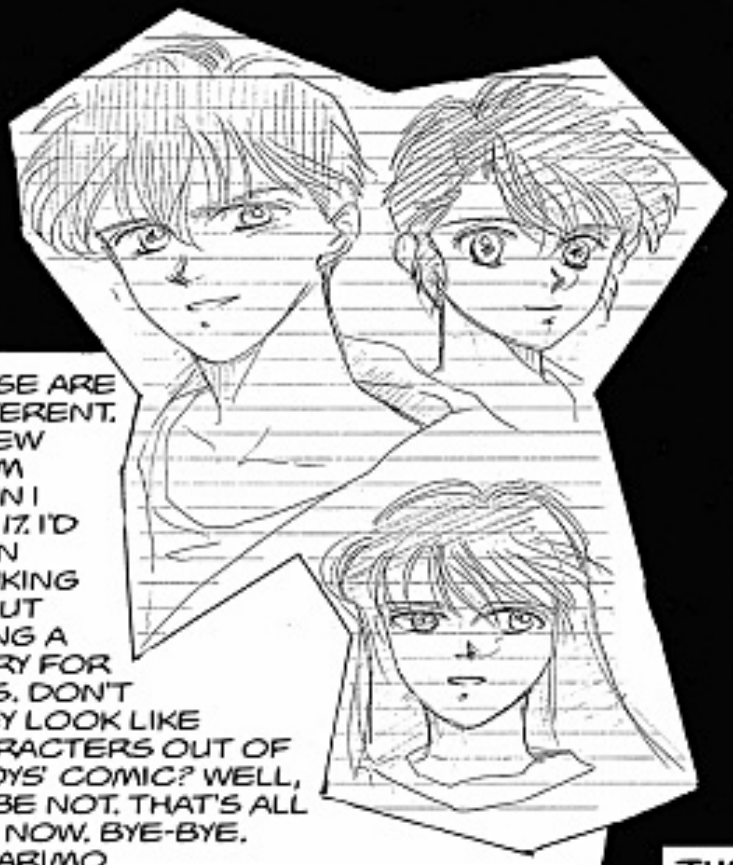
SKETCHES FROM MY NOTEBOOKS 2

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS ON MY SKETCHES IN THE PREVIOUS VOLUME. YOUR KIND WORDS MADE ME VERY HAPPY. THE ONE IN THE CENTER AND THE GIRL HOLDING THE FLOWER WERE THE MOST POPULAR. AS FOR THE SKETCHES HERE, DO YOU NOTICE ANYTHING FUNNY? THAT'S RIGHT, THE STYLES ARE DIFFERENT. THESE ARE PICTURES I DREW A LONG TIME AGO. THEY CAME OUT OF THE SAME BOX AS MY FIFTH GRADE DRAWINGS ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE. I MUST HAVE BEEN IN ABOUT SIXTH GRADE WHEN I DREW THESE. WHAT A LAUGH! I WAS ONLY 12 YEARS OLD. I COULD ONLY DRAW GIRLS BACK THEN. THERE WASN'T A SINGLE PICTURE OF A BOY. (NOWADAYS, I HAVE TROUBLE DRAWING GIRLS.)

WHAT ARE THOSE LITTLE GIRLS IN THE BACKGROUND? THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS GIRL'S ARMS AND HIPS!!

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER LEGS. HER FINGERS, TOO. BUT AT THE TIME, I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOOD.

SHOULDERS ARE TOO NARROW. AND THOSE COLLARS?



THESE ARE DIFFERENT. I DREW THEM WHEN I WAS 17. I'D BEEN THINKING ABOUT DOING A STORY FOR BOYS. DON'T THEY LOOK LIKE CHARACTERS OUT OF A BOYS' COMIC? WELL, MAYBE NOT. THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. BYE-BYE.
--MARIMO

THESE SKETCHES ARE SOME OF THE BETTER ONES. THERE ARE SOME THAT ARE REALLY HILARIOUS.

BABY & ME™

Creator: Marimo Ragawa

Date of Birth: September 21

Blood Type: B

Major Works: *Time Limit*, *Baby & Me*, *N.Y. N.Y.*, and *Shanimuni-Go* (Desperately—Go)

Marimo Ragawa first started submitting manga to a comic magazine when she was 12 years old. She kept up her submissions for four years, but to no avail. She decided to submit her work to the magazine *Hana to Yume*, where she received Top Prize in the Monthly Manga Contest as well as an honorable mention (Kasaku) in the magazine's Big Challenge contest. Her first manga was titled *Time Limit*. *Baby & Me* was honored with a Shogakukan Manga Award in 1995 and was spun-off into an anime.

Ragawa's work showcases some very cute and expressive line work along with an incredible ability to depict complex emotions and relationships. Some of her other works include *N.Y. N.Y.* and the tennis manga *Shanimuni-Go*.

Ragawa has two brothers and two sisters.

BABY & ME, Vol. 3

The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

This manga volume contains material that was originally published in English in *Shojo Beat* magazine, May–October 2006 issues.

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MARIMO RAGAWA

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Translation/JN Productions
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Mark McMurry
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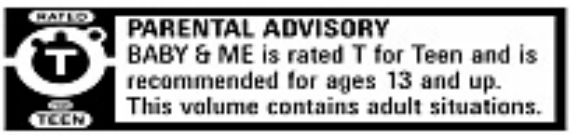
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